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Ken and Emma and the  
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## Blair jobs plan for 1m single parents

Leader takes on left  
over welfare reform

DONALD MACINTYRE  
Political Editor

Tony Blair will tomorrow turn the bitterly controversial political argument about single mothers on its head, by pledging a new Labour programme aimed at taking 1m lone parents off benefit and into work.

Labour believes the move - which Mr Blair will unveil in his speech to the party conference - is an important extension of his commitment to a "welfare into work" programme. Party strategists believe that it will be electorally popular, including among lone parents themselves.

The plan is closely modelled on the successful Australian Jobs Education and Training Programme which was launched by Paul Keating's Labour government.

Unpublished Department of Social Security research shows that 90 per cent of single parents would take paid work if

a £110m scheme to reduce primary class sizes. It will be financed by scrapping the assisted places scheme for state funded pupils to go to private schools.

Party strategists are optimistic that it will overshadow debate over a series of divisive issues, which threaten to dominate the conference.

The most immediately fractious is the National Executive's decision to withhold endorsement from Liz Davies, the left-winger chosen as parliamentary candidate for Leeds North East.

The executive yesterday agreed to allow a short conference debate on the issue by agreeing to submit a short report on their decision to delegates tomorrow morning.

But in a move that may be challenged on the conference floor today, the conference organisers refused to accept 13 emergency motions demanding her immediate reinstatement.

In an interview with the *Guardian*, Mr Blair says that people like Ms Davies had a choice: "They've got to decide if they're going to help a Labour government or carry on in a narrow sectarian politics that has no popular resonance. If they stood on the Labour Briefing platform they'd get 500 votes. If they want to stand on my policies and my back, in order to get into power to cause trouble for a Labour government, I think we're entitled to say no to that."

The leadership's chances today of defeating a highly embarrassing motion demanding Labour commit itself to a minimum wage of £4.15 suddenly improved yesterday, when the Transport and General Workers' Union bowed to intense pressure behind the scenes and agreed not to support the call.

But the GMB general union last night was holding out in support of the motion, which cuts across Mr Blair's determined insistence that Labour cannot commit itself to a figure before the election and should instead leave it to a Low Pay Commission. If the Edinburgh Central Constituency, which proposed the motion, insists on pressing it to a vote, the result is likely to be close.

Aides to Mr Blair, who provoked anger within the party by sending his son, Euan, to an optician school, are facing the prospect of a highly-charged debate over grant-maintained schools on Wednesday.



Future vision: John Prescott follows Tony Blair's direction yesterday at Brighton racecourse with Pauline Prescott (left), Gordon Brown and Cherie Blair

Photograph: John Voos

## How Labour could hand victory to Major



Andrew Marr

One thought should dominate this Labour conference. It's that John Major may well win the next election.

A lethal self-confidence is creeping through the party, a lazy conviction that the Conservatives are so loathed that the only thing left to fight about is the nature of Labour's first legislative programme for 19 years. Are memories so short? Mr Major is not a man who is going to be beaten by default. He is a courageous and ruthless campaigner who is just beginning to benefit from the personal risk he took in confronting his right-wing critics, and whose party is now likely to look more united on Europe than for years. Nor can Labour assume that the British economy will forever canvas against the Tories, as it has been. However tight things are this year, tax cuts are coming, as macro-politics eventually overwhelms micro-economics.

Then there is the media. During Tony Blair's extraordinary first 18 months as leader he has been swept along on a bright billow of newspaper adulation. To paraphrase Hilaire Belloc, the stocks are sold, the press is squared, the middle class is -

quite - prepared. Proprietors have been courted, the editors jostle for the attention of the coming regime. But the media is fickle, impatient and well paid. Many journalists are bored of building Mr Blair up, are ready for a new story and quietly keen to give him a kicking. If left-wing rebellion and a leader's speech that failed to live up to its billing in Brighton were followed by a better-than-expected Tory conference, the Blair billow could crash into spume and confusion. I don't expect this, but we are at a moment in the political cycle when things can still slip either way. These conferences will help set national attitudes. By next year the big themes of the

looming election will already have been decided. So what does Labour need to do?

The easiest answer is that it has to remain disciplined. Despite worries about Mr Blair's lack of Socialist spirit, the party has exhibited remarkable self-control. The PLP is full of bitten tongues. Poisonous resentments and jealousies in the shadow cabinet have been held in check.

But a key part of recently-agreed Tory strategy is to prise open Labour differences. Senior ministers are looking for populist policies on crime, welfare and education, deliberately moving to the right in the hope that Mr Blair will be forced to follow, so pulling at the party's divisions until they become intolerable. Self-discipline is going to be easy to call for, but it's going to be progressively harder for Labour people to live with.

More important is the next stage in the development of Labour policy which, as it stands, is underwhelming in three essential areas - economics, political reform and the public services. Most attention will be on tax and spending, but this year the clamour for pre-election detail will be ignored. Promises

on the utilities' windfall tax, a hack-to-work programme and spending priorities are the start of Labour's attempt to sound decisive, without frightening taxpayers. But they all sound more like good front-page stories than completed proposals. When it comes to the serious numbers, Gordon Brown's verbal veil is unlikely to be lifted for another year at least.

Political reform is the most obvious and do-able task for a Blairite government. But here, too, there is a worrying amount of work still to do on the detail of Labour's new state. On the Scottish parliament, voting reform, the Bill of Rights and Westminster reform, we have dancing but fleshless bones.

A Blair government which flunked political reform would go down in history as a failure. But a Blair government which did nothing else would quickly lose the support of its core electorate. This brings us to the public services, where Labour is grappling with nothing less than the need for a new settlement between public and private, reasserting the value of public services on their own terms and in their own language.

Here the propaganda, at least, is easy. Ministers who are appalled by the greed of privatised utility bosses, but unable to do anything about it, make easy targets. In education, the Tory battle-cry of choice merely infuriates parents who have not any. Even the Tory right is well aware of the inflated bureaucracy of the NHS internal market. Railway privatisation, unless it is sabotaged by Opposition hostility, looks set to be the worst domestic error of Mr Major's period as Prime Minister.

After years of administrative Maoism under the Tories, Labour conservatism seems attractive: the provision of public services ought to be an unglamorous affair. But here, too, some of the essential detail of Labour policy slips through one's fingers.

So there are an awesome number of questions voters will want answers to. I suspect this week won't be a smooth one for Tony Blair. Enough doubts about new Labour have surfaced to make the press stop and sniff the air. The party is uneasy. The country hasn't made up its mind. No doubt the next few days will be as theatrical as Labour conferences can still be - intrigues, denunciations, a little rapture. But we should be watching for something more, for the evidence that this party can harden its warm words into practical policies and, by doing so, generate the angry enthusiasm for imminent change which has been missing in Britain for years, and on whose absence the quickly self-confident John Major still banks.

## Howard wants a British 'Alcatraz'

HEATHER MILLS

Home Affairs Correspondent

Michael Howard is seeking private finance to build the first "Alcatraz"-style fortress super jail for the country's 260 most dangerous criminals.

The move is designed to head off stinging criticism in an unpublished inquiry report into



jail security. The *Independent* has learnt that the inquiry into prison security - following the IRA escape at Whitemoor and the subsequent Parkhurst debacle late last year - will be highly critical of the present system of handing high-risk, sophisticated and psychopathic criminals in prisons dotted around the system.

The conclusions of the inquiry by Sir John Larmont, the former Quartermaster General, due to be published later this month, suggest the most cost-effective way of ensuring public safety is the provision of one

or two American-style super-secure prisons. But aware of the controversy surrounding private prisons and lapses of security, the Home Secretary intends the super maximum "supermax" jail to be state-run.

Officials are confident the Cabinet would approve plans for the jail to be built by the private sector but their main concern is bad publicity. Home Office documents, seen by the *Independent*, say: "Announcing private sector involvement in this prison... may attract negative tabloid interest (Group 4 to run UK Alcatraz", etc)." This is a clear reference

to the security firm Group 4's embarrassing loss of prisoners in its disastrous first few weeks of prison escort work.

The papers reveal that Mr Howard has all but failed to secure public funding for a hi-tech super-jail. Officials are urgently seeking approval for private finance so that, when Sir John's report is published, the Home Secretary can announce that plans are underway. There are no plans to house women or young offenders in the supermax.

Creating a supermax prison would end a 30-year-old policy of moving convicted violent

and control-risk prisoners regularly between six jails - Parkhurst, Whitemoor, Full Sutton, Long Lartin, Frankland and Belmarsh.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said last night: "The debate has been going on for 30 years and during that time the case for the supermax has not been proved. The main advantage of high security is far outweighed by the difficulties for family visits, the stigmatisation, and the high running and building costs."

Prison of the future, page 3

## INDEPENDENT Reporters take top awards

Two *Independent* journalists have won prestigious awards. Stephen Ward, Legal Affairs Correspondent, has been named Newspaper Journalist of the Year by the Bar Council and Andrew Brown, Religious Affairs Correspondent, has won the Templeton Prize for European Religious Journalism.

Peter Goldsmith QC, chairman of the Bar Council, said Ward demonstrated an "outstanding contribution to the reporting of legal issues". Brown won his prize in competition with journalists from 13 European countries.

### Cantona hits back at goal

Eric Cantona (right) marked his return to football after an eight-month suspension by setting up the first goal and scoring the second in Manchester United's 2-2 home draw with Liverpool. Page 28



### Hat-trick for Lammtarra

Lammtarra (right) ridden by Frankie Dettori, became one of racing's great horses by matching Mill Reef's feat of winning the Derby, King George and Arc de Triomphe in a season. Page 23



**Papacy to investigate Irish sex cases**  
A special papal envoy has been sent to investigate the spate of sex abuse and other scandals that threaten to undermine the moral authority of the Catholic Church in Ireland. Page 2

**'Euro' threatens to replace the pound**  
National currencies will be replaced by a single European currency, which will probably be called the Euro, according to finance ministers meeting in Valencia. Page 10



**Rupert Cornwell:** Could the OJ trial pave the way for a black president? Page 17  
**James Fenton:** New Statesman's troubles. Page 17  
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**Weather:** There will be some sunshine and blustery winds. Scotland and Northern Ireland will start the day with showers that will move south and east. Section Two, page 25

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## news

# Papal envoy to investigate Irish church scandals

ALAN MURDOCH  
Dublin

A special papal envoy has been sent to investigate the unprecedented spate of clerical sex abuse and other scandals that threaten to undermine the moral authority of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

The envoy arrived in Ireland as a new survey of public attitudes revealed a rapid decline in public confidence. The poll, for the Institute of Advertising in Ireland, found that 75 per cent of people now have "mixed, little, or no confidence" in church leaders.

This represents a 17 per cent fall in confidence compared with a similar poll four years ago. Just 25 per cent expressed confidence compared with 42 per cent in 1991. The survey research was carried out in April before the latest scandals broke.

Cardinal Cahal Daly, Catholic Primate of All Ireland, last night offered "the most abject and most humble apology" to victims of abuse and spoke of the church's atonement, penance and humility.

The Cardinal highlighted "wave after wave of scandal, crashing and breaking against the Church" in an address at Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

"When stories or allegations of abuse by some clerics come to attention, we must not be afraid of the truth."

"Truth can hurt, but it can also heal. It can give some measure of healing to victims, for whom long silence has been paralysing; even to abusers, whose lives have been accompanied by the long shadow of a guilty secret," he said.

The Vatican envoy, Archbishop Jorge Mejia, an experienced church troubleshooter, yesterday met Cardinal Daly. He is to report back to Pope John Paul on the spate of clerical sex abuse claims and prosecutions, and is also expected to inquire into other highly publicised setbacks for the Church involving the conduct of some of its most senior prelates.

Last week, the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Desmond Connell, a noted pro-Vatican conservative, was shown to have made conflicting statements on whether the Church paid money towards compensating clerical sex abuse victims.

A Dublin newspaper yesterday claimed that the Church, sought a verbal commitment to silence from a former altar boy paid £27,500 (£28,000) in an out-of-court settlement in 1993. The payment arose from a se-

ries of alleged sex assaults by a north Dublin curate between 1977 and 1980, now being investigated by police.

It emerged the curate had earlier been chaplain at a Dublin children's hospital.

Church sources have also admitted that a senior bishop took a series of expensive holidays in Thailand. It has been claimed Bishop Brendan Comiskey was detained in police cells in Bangkok after arriving there last October drunk and without a passport.

Gardai say the bishop declined to assist inquiries into sex abuse in his diocese. He is currently undergoing treatment for alcoholism in the US. Bishop Comiskey was recently summoned to Rome to explain his demands for a public debate on the policy of priestly celibacy.

Since 1993, a series of priests have been jailed for sex offences. In recent months, priests from Wexford, in the south-east, to Londonderry in the north-west have appeared in court facing sex abuse charges.

On Saturday it emerged that gardai are investigating claims that more than a dozen former pupils at St Joseph's reform school and orphanage in Lower Salthill, Galway, were sexually and physically abused by three members of the Catholic Christian Brothers order. Similar inquiries have been taking place at nine other childcare centres around the country.

Last week, the former housekeeper of a prominent Dublin Catholic priest and broadcaster, Father Michael Cleary, publicly a staunch pro-Vatican moral conservative, confirmed he had fathered two sons with her. Phyllis Hamilton said soon after the birth of her first son, she returned home to find the priest in bed with another unmarried mother, to whom he was giving counselling.



Conduct unbefitting: Father Cleary (left) and Bishop Comiskey

## Final curtain falls for Ken and Em



'Great sadness': Emma Thompson yesterday at the home she shared with Kenneth Branagh

MARY BRAD

The actress Emma Thompson fluffed her lines yesterday as she confirmed, after months of rumour, that the final curtain had come down on the glittering and, for some, irritating, Ken and Em show.

Ms Thompson, 35, always said marriage was a huge risk, but the self-confessed optimist hoped that her union with fellow actor and director Kenneth Branagh, 34 - one of the most successful partnerships in the history of British film and theatre - would run and run.

As she stood dishevelled before an army of photographers at her west London home - hours after a Sunday tabloid headlined her alleged relationship with actor and recent co-star Greg Wise - she played tired and emotional for real.

Asked to repeat an earlier statement on the end of the six-year run, Ms Thompson managed: "I think it said 'due to the pressures of work'..." before trailing off. She said she could not string a sentence together, and refused to comment on her relationship with Mr Wise, 29, who stars with her in *Sense and Sensibility*, the film of the Jane Austen novel for which she wrote the screenplay.

Friends claimed that the marriage had been over for months, and blamed the pressure of work. Branagh had joked that he had to make an appointment to see her and that she went to bed with her Oscar. She had said she wanted children but that Ken was so tired "all his sperm are on crutches". For those who revelled in the on- and off-screen love affair the news was a tragedy of Shakespearean proportions. But Ms Thompson has admitted she was well aware that the partnership's apparent combination of off-screen domestic bliss and golden commercial success was too rich for some. It is claimed that the couple spent fewer than 100 days together at this London home. In a statement issued on Saturday night they said they had decided with great sadness to separate but that the split was entirely amicable. "Our work has inevitably led to our spending long periods of time away from each other, and, as a result, we have drifted apart."

Section Two, Cover Story

### IN BRIEF

#### Boom in church membership

About 200 people a day are joining churches in the spiritual 1990s and offsetting the number leaving disillusioned. Figures in the latest edition of the *UK Christian Handbook* show most of the growth is in evangelical churches.

The Evangelical Alliance claimed people were flocking through the doors because the Christian message was put forward in an understandable way.

#### Two die at air show

Two British aviation enthusiasts were killed when a rare Second World War bomber crashed while rehearsing for an air show in Texas. Chris Gardner, 24, and Colin Dunwell, 35, workers at the Imperial War Museum in Duxford, Cambridgeshire, were just days into their three-week holiday in the United States when the tragedy occurred.

#### Road tolls attacked

Road tolling would be expensive, impractical and as politically unpopular as the poll tax, a study by the Centre for Political Research Studies says. It suggests that instead of road pricing, the vehicle excise duty should be scrapped and replaced by a "system of banded road pricing".

#### Fugitive on trial

John Martin Scripps, 35, who fled Britain last year while on home leave from jail, is to go on trial in Singapore today accused of killing a South African engineer. He is also wanted in Thailand for the murders of two Canadians, and has been linked to the disappearance of a Briton in Mexico in January.

#### Crunch for Lineker

The GMB general union is urging the former England football captain Gary Lineker not to renew his contract to advertise Walkers crisps because of a dispute over union recognition at the company's plant in Peterlee, Durham.

#### Lottery winner

One ticketholder has scooped this week's National Lottery jackpot of £9.98m. The winning numbers were 10, 11, 29, 32, 33, 40 and the bonus 16.

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BACK ISSUES  
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## Identity card gets blanket rejection by councils

NICHOLAS TIMMINS  
Public Policy Editor

Local government has come out in blanket opposition to a national identity card, whether compulsory or voluntary, telling Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, that it is opposed in principle and practice.

The joint attack from the three main local authority associations, covering counties, districts and the metropolitan

authorities, comes as doubts are growing over Mr Howard's ability to get even the weakest version of a voluntary scheme through the Commons in the face of opposition from backbench Tories. Mr Howard is expected to back a voluntary scheme based on the new photo driving licence at the Conservative Party conference next week.

The stance by the local government associations - all

Labour controlled - is, however, decidedly more hostile than that of Labour's front bench, which has admitted a role for voluntary cards in some circumstances.

In their formal response to Mr Howard's Green Paper, the councils say they oppose a scheme, whether compulsory or voluntary, because they believe it "would be detrimental to the rights of individual citizens".

Policing, they say, "relies on

public co-operation". "Giving the police powers to stop people and ask them to prove their identity is a major intrusion on the rights of the citizen and is bound to heighten tension between the police and certain sections of the community" - particularly young people and the ethnic minorities, who could find themselves asked to prove their identity more than the average.

If a voluntary scheme were

introduced, "there would be substantial social pressure to carry a card. In effect, a voluntary scheme would lead to a *de facto* compulsory one very quickly."

Smart cards would allow information to be stored which was unavailable to the person carrying it. And that "could enable state agencies to exchange information which is inappropriate, inaccurate and incapable of being checked."

The associations do not oppose a photographic driving licence which would contain "a strictly limited amount of information for a specific purpose". Beyond that, they resist.

It would not be impossible to forge cards, they say. As Mr Howard has conceded, this would not "stop someone committing a burglary or a mugging". They might make the public less co-operative with public services.

Right-wing Conservatives have warned that identity cards have "very serious implications for the traditional liberties of the British people".

Meanwhile, a recent Harris poll among MPs found that 18 per cent of Conservatives - more than enough to halt the legislation if the Opposition voted against - were opposed even to a voluntary scheme based on the new photo driving licence.

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## Pools giant joins scratchcard war

A new scratchcard war begins today as the pools giant Littlewoods hits back at the National Lottery by launching its own scratchcard games to raise money for charity.

Three different Littlewoods scratchcard games will operate in each of seven British regions, with every game offering a total of a million tickets. Voluntary organisations will benefit by up to £340,000 from each game, 24p from every ticket sold, and each game will be dedicated to a particular charity. The new cards will be on sale alongside lottery scratchcards in shops, post offices and petrol stations.

The cards offer a maximum prize of £50,000 and Littlewoods hopes to make up to 3p profit from every ticket sold. "Our scratchcards are a simple and fast way for charities to benefit from people who simply want to have a flutter," said Littlewoods' marketing director

Tony Hillyer. "This is the first game in which players know they can directly help someone else." Littlewoods hopes to start handing funds over to charities early in the New Year.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations welcomed the idea but doubted whether it would bring in "new" money. "Giving 24p to charity is good - that's more than the lottery scratchcards - I like the idea of named charities," said its chief executive Stuart Etherington. He added that the "scratchcard wars" were probably just moving the same money around, and that the best way to help was still to give direct.

Littlewoods has complained about "unfair" competition from the lottery and, in August, announced that it was shedding 530 jobs from its 3,400 workforce as a result of the lottery's success in attracting punters away from the pools.

## Unionist leader calls for concessions by Dublin

COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

David Trimble, the new leader of the Ulster Unionists, will today visit Dublin and urge John Bruton, the Taoiseach, to take Ireland back into the Commonwealth, to create a single currency by merging the punt with the pound, and to end the Irish Republic's constitutional claim to the North.

"We hear a lot about the concessions needed by the British government to break the impasse, but so far the Irish government has done nothing," said a senior Ulster Unionist source. "We think they should return to the Commonwealth of nations, just as South Africa did."

The old hostilities between the loyalists and the republicans broke out yesterday in Glasgow, when loyalists pelted Sinn Féin supporters with bottles outside

a rally by Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president. Five people were arrested for fighting.

Mr Adams renewed his demands for the British government to drop its requirement for the IRA to make progress on decommissioning arms before Sinn Féin is allowed into all-party talks with the Ulster Unionists. He said: "A total demilitarisation of the situation is an objective of the peace process. It is achievable. What we have had is an achievable objective being turned into an obstacle."

There has been urgent diplomatic action in Washington to seek a way through the impasse to all-party talks before President Bill Clinton visits Britain and Ireland at the end of the month. John Hume, the SDLP leader, yesterday called on London to set a date for the talks to begin but no moves are expected before the end of next week's Tory conference.

The Ulster Unionist leaders remain convinced that there will be no return to violence in spite of the warnings by Mr Adams and the statement by the IRA before the Sinn Féin delegates' conference in Dublin at the weekend.

"I still think most people in the IRA recognise that the conclusion they reached in 1994 that there must be a ceasefire was because they cannot win," said John Taylor, the deputy leader of Ulster Unionists. "They weren't beaten, which is why there is no question of any surrender. But they recognise that if they start fighting again - and some want to - they still cannot win."

It will be the first time that an Ulster Unionist leader has visited the Government's buildings in Dublin. Mr Trimble will have lunch with Mr Bruton after launching an Ulster Unionist book.

## Astronomers say time travel is just science fiction

TOM WILKIE  
Science Editor

Astronomers are concerned that the public is getting *Star Trek*-style science fiction dressed up as science fact, following reports that Professor Stephen Hawking believed that travelling in time is possible.

Dr Simon Mitton, an astronomer at Cambridge University, said: "It has been known for the past 20 years that if you can come up with a mechanism for severely distorting spacetime and creating a 'wormhole', then it would be possible at the

level of equations for single particles to travel from the present into the past."

But, he added: "It worries me that in describing circumstances in which time-travel and faster-than-light travel are a possibility within theoretical physics, popular reports often fail to distinguish what you can do for a single particle from many-particle systems - people or spacecrafts - which cannot participate in this phenomenon."

Professor Hawking had previously doubted the idea of time travel, but in the foreword to a new book, *The Physics of*

*Star Trek*, by US astronomer Lawrence Krauss, which is due to be published next month, he writes: "One of the consequences of rapid interstellar travel would be that one could also travel back in time."

Professor Hawking, Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, said: "There is a two-way trade between science fiction and science. We may not yet be able to boldly go where no man or woman has gone before, but at least we can do it in the mind."

He emphasised that while he believed time-travel was theo-

retically possible, it would probably never be practically possible.

The first "proof" that Einstein's theory of general relativity allowed time travel was published by the mathematical logician Kurt Gödel in 1949. He derived from the theory a cosmological model of a rotating universe in which journeys backwards in time were possible. However, Gödel's model universe bears no resemblance to the one we inhabit.

In 1988, stimulated by Carl Sagan's 1986 science fiction novel *Contact*, the US cosmologist Kip Thorne and two of his colleagues examined the idea of quantum-mechanical wormholes in space as time-tunnels into the past.

Professor Thorne discussed the idea extensively in the last chapter of his book *Black Holes and Time Warps: Einstein's Outrageous Legacy*, published last year. He concluded: "We cannot know for sure until physicists have fathomed in depth the laws of quantum gravity."

For the moment, time machines have still not got further than the pages of *Star Trek*.

Building a *Trek*, page 17

سكنا من الاجل



# Internet set to cut phone bills

DAVID PITCHFORD

A controversial new telephone system, which carries long-distance signals across the Internet, will cut the cost of international phone calls to national levels, according to the company which has launched the service.

International Discount Telecommunications (IDT) said that its pioneering transatlantic service, costing about 8p a

minute, will be available in Britain by January, and a limited service will be available in 80 countries "in the coming months".

To access the service, customers will need an Internet connection, which costs around £12 a month, and a personal computer with modem, microphone and speaker. Unlike other Internet voice services, where the service is limited to computer-to-computer com-

munication, IDT's system allows for calls to regular telephones. The president of IDT, Howard Jones, said: "Our system will bring international calling within the range of regular people."

The implications for users, and for the major phone companies, are far-reaching. British Telecom, which makes £2 billion a year from international calls, stands to lose custom from the one million British people with Internet access, a significant

number of whom are business users. Neil Ellul, editor of *Internet* magazine, said: "The whole basis of the Internet is cheap and reliable communication. BT have had it too good for too long." But BT said they had no objections to the IDT system, "as long as they abide by the same regulations as us". Telecommunications watchdog OFTEL confirmed that the service "seemed legal", but added: "We are watching it closely."

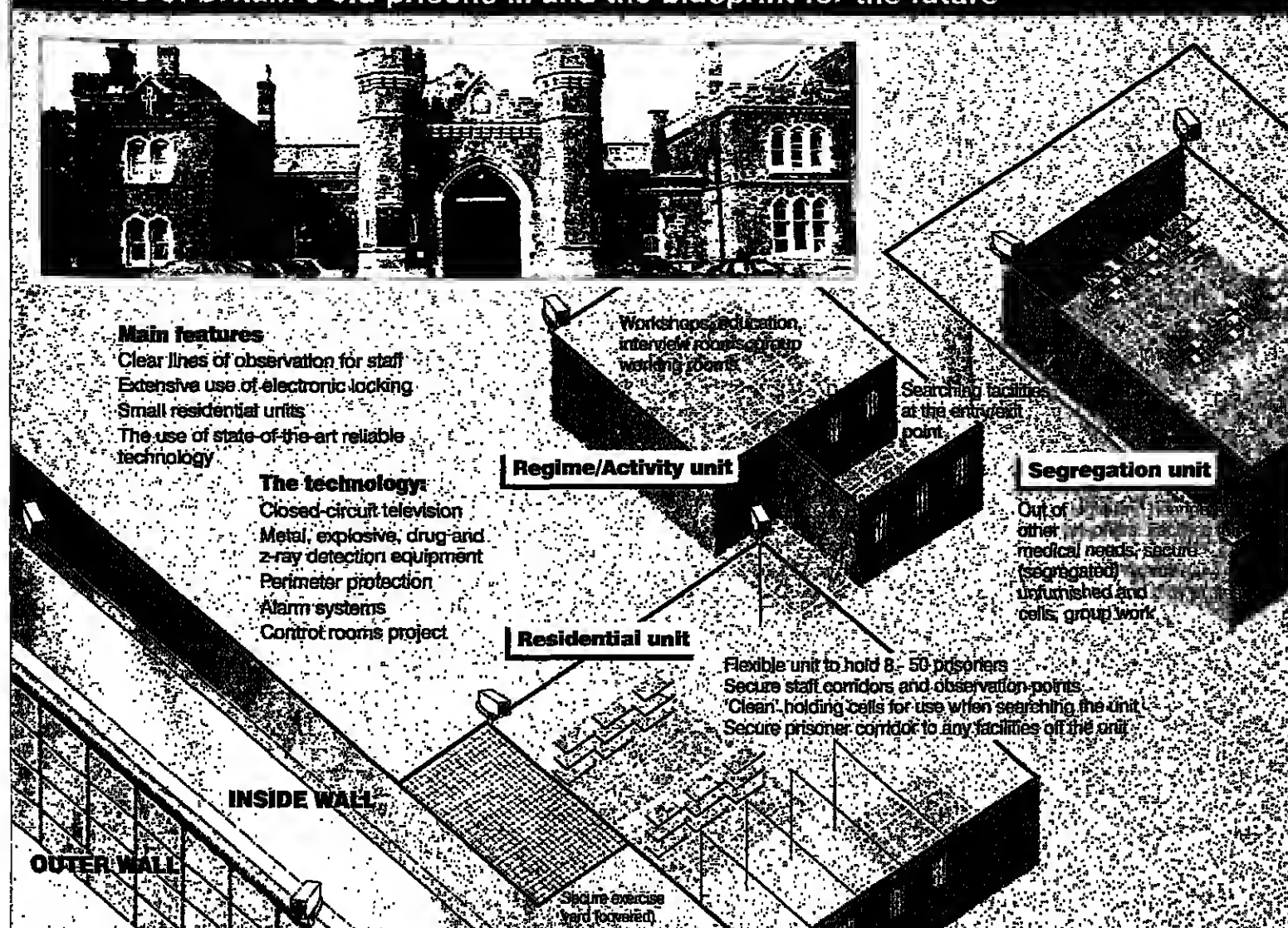
Any restrictive legislation would take at least six months.

IDT, whose undercutting "callback" phone services have irritated telephone companies and governments worldwide, claims its new service will revolutionise long-distance calls. However, a question mark hangs over the legal status of the service, as well as the amenability of companies which provide access to the Internet. Internet provider companies are ambi-

valent about voice communications over the Internet as they take up large amounts of bandwidth, slowing down connections for other users. A major Internet provider, Unipalm Pipes, has already banned end-user companies from carrying real-time voice data.

Traditionally the Internet has grown to accommodate its users' needs and many believe that new technology will keep up with demands made on it.

## The face of Britain's old prisons ... and the blueprint for the future



## Escapes inspire the 'supermax' jail

Ministers studied hi-tech American examples after service was blamed for creating a 'disaster waiting to happen'

HEATHER MILLS  
Home Affairs Correspondent

A series of increasingly dramatic escapes in recent years has led to proposals for a super-secure prison.

It started with the helicopter escape from Gartree prison in 1987, followed by the 1991 break-out of two IRA prisoners from Brixton jail and culminated with the Whitemoor and Parkhurst escapes at the end of last year.

Ministers first started looking at the feasibility of a supermax jail after Sir John Woodcock's scathing report into the Whitemoor escape, which blamed all levels of the prison service for creating a "disaster waiting to happen".

An American specialist from the US federal system was brought in to advise on security and senior Prison Service staff and Home Office ministers visited the new generation of hi-tech superjails in the US - including one in Minnesota, which while furnished with state-of-the-art security, appears to be built like a Saxo fort - sunk into the landscape with the walls surrounded by artificial hills.

But facing initial Treasury resistance, the plans appeared to be on hold. However, the findings of Sir John Learmont's inquiry into prison security set up in the wake of the Parkhurst and Whitemoor escapes have given them new impetus.

Documents seen by the *Independent* say that in the absence of public money, it is "crucial" that agreement is secured in principle to private finance. "Early agreement would allow the Home Secretary to accept this aspect of the expected Learmont recommendations ..."

The two stumbling blocks officials foresee are ministers' initial resistance to agree to the plan until seeing both Learmont's findings and the conclusions of a feasibility study - and bad publicity over private sector involvement. Given that both favour one or two "supermax" jails, officials are confident of securing ministers' approval "through careful wording of the Home Secretary's briefing". But they say "robust defensive lines of public sector involvement more generally must be available" to head off media criticism.

Although no sites are sug-

gested, draft proposals seen by the *Independent* suggest the supermax jail will be broken down into small units to hold between 8 and 50 prisoners, each with extensive use of electronic locking and alarms and monitored by closed-circuit television linked to a control room.

Corridors will be similarly secured and each unit will contain "clean" holding cells, for use when searching the unit. There will also be searching facilities at each entry and exit point.

Each unit is likely to have adaptable rooms to cater for whatever activities are in progress, from education to group therapy to work. All exercise yards will be covered by steel mesh to prevent the kind of helicopter escape that took place at Gartree.

Visitors and staff will have to pass through screens, designed to detect metal, explosives or drugs. The proposals also suggest that delivery, storage and maintenance departments are all located outside the perimeter wall to make everything easier to search before it enters the prison.

The whole complex will be surrounded by a series of perimeter walls and fences,

## Where Britain's most dangerous prisoners are held

	Exceptional risk (eg IRA prisoner)	High risk (armed robbers, murderers)
Convicted:		
Belmarsh	7	24
Frankland		34
Full Sutton		37
Whitemoor	6	
Unconvicted:		
Belmarsh		33
Birmingham		1
Bristol		3
Doncaster		4
Durham		6
Leeds		2
Leicester		1
Liverpool		3
Manchester		2
Total		163
Control risk (Violent and disruptive prisoners)		
Parkhurst		13
Hull		4
Woodhill		8
On assessment in other jails		23

each with a monitored and alarmed "sterile" area in between.

"Within the constraints of a secure environment the regime

will be productive, developmental and prepare prisoners for their eventual release or reclassification," the proposals say.

## Law Lord says talk to save money

STEPHEN WARD  
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lord Woolf, the Law Lord behind plans for the biggest reform of civil justice this century, said judges and lawyers could save large amounts of time and money if they started to use telephones.

His *Access to Justice* proposals to the Government, after a year's consultation, include early meetings between judge, prosecution and defence to determine where a case is going. Speaking at the Bar Council's annual conference in London, Lord Woolf suggested that existing technology would make meetings possible through video conferencing, even if the judge was in Newcastle and the parties in London. He added: "We must manage the 98 per cent of cases which never come to trial." At the moment a case can take years to get to court. Most never make it, and are settled out of court, after accruing massive legal bills.

Lord Woolf has also proposed fast-track courts for cases where damages claimed are less than £10,000. In all cases judges, not lawyers, would control progress. Speaking to the audience of barristers, he said the greater control of case-length by judges should mean barristers quoting fixed fees, rather than charging by time. He also accused barristers of being over-paid. "I know of young men of a few years' experience who are earning more than a Law Lord," he said. Lord Woolf's salary is £109,435. A recent survey of QC's in the magazine *Legal Business*, based on estimates from within the legal profession, found several earning more than £1m a year, including the libel expert George Carman. The Bar Council president, Peter Goldsmith, was estimated at between £750,000 and £1m. The Bar insists that only a handful of barristers earn big money, and many earn around £20,000 a year.

Mr Goldsmith told the conference he was worried at the implication of giving judges a more managerial role. "Some judges you could give the papers on a Friday night and confidently come back for the judgment on Monday." Others were not so good.

Lord Williams of Mostyn, a prominent labour barrister, estimated that retraining judges would cost an extra £30m a year. But Lord Woolf said this was a relatively small expense when set against the savings involved. The Government is committed to making the reforms work, according to John Taylor, junior minister in the Lord Chancellor's department. However, he would not say if extra money would be spent on the courts.

## English language being led astray

JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

Shakespeare did it. School-leavers and university students do it. Now even princes, prime ministers and professors of English are breaking the rules of grammar. Even the Prince of Wales, does not always speak the Queen's English.

Their failings are highlighted today by Professor John Hiney, former professor of education at Leicester Polytechnic and now professor of English at Osaka International University in Japan. Professor Hiney, a long-standing critic of education standards in Britain and a champion of standard grammar, has spent 15 years noting the mistakes of the famous.

His main concern, elaborated in an article called "A new rule for the Queen and I" in the journal *English Today*, is the pronoun case.

He points out that, under existing rules, the pronoun changes if it is the object rather than the subject. For example, we say "my wife and I went" but "he dislikes my wife and me".

Though Dr Johnson was a



Rule-breakers: Baroness Thatcher and Rhodes Boyson

stickler for the correct use of the pronoun, Shakespeare, Thackeray and Dickens were not.

Professor Hiney wants the rules changed because so many well-known people are breaking them. He cites as examples: □ Baroness Thatcher (Oxford graduate): "It is not for you and I sitting here to condemn ..."

□ Sir Rhodes Boyson (Ex-headmaster and former education minister): "The Labour party have taken the Red Rose as their

emblem [but] I don't think they asked permission of us Lancastrians before they did it."

□ Professor Brian Cox (professor of English at Manchester University and chairman of a government working party on English): "Philip Larkin expressed nervousness about allying himself to me jackbooted characters."

□ The case of the Prince of Wales is more complicated. In an interview with the BBC last

year when asked if he had been faithful to his wife, he replied: "Yes, until it had become clear that it had irretrievably broken down, we both having tried."

Professor Hiney suggests that the Oxford English Dictionary recognises the use of "us" and a participle in what is technically called an absolute construction. On the other hand, the prince might have mixed up "we both having tried" and "both of us having tried".

Professor Cox said last week: "The view of all modern linguists is that the concept of correctness as absolute is foolish because our notions of correctness keep changing."

Peter Basset, of the Queen's English Society, countered: "You would not find a single soul among our members who would support a change in the rules. Words still have a specific meaning. Unless people use them correctly there will come a time when we don't know what we mean."

Professor Hiney suggests an alternative rule for optional use by academics, politicians, exam candidates and, of course, by you and me!

## Drug tests 'denying patients full care'

NICHOLAS TIMMINS  
Public Policy Editor

Thousands of patients are being denied effective treatment due to unnecessary "placebo" treatments in trials intended to test new drugs, doctors have warned.

In particular, doctors have attacked the way trials for a new drug aimed at preventing vomiting after operations have been carried out.

In studies of whether the drug ondansetron worked, 8,806 patients had taken part in the trials by July 1994. But 2,620 of these were given placebos and denied existing anti-nausea drugs which "though not completely effective or without side effects" do bring some relief, according to Dr Rebecca Aspinall and Dr Neville Goodman, anaesthetists at Southmead Hospital in Bristol.

The doctors acknowledge that when new drugs are first produced, placebo trials are needed because it is known that any medical intervention can appear to benefit some patients.

By testing the new drug against a placebo, doctors can be sure of its real effect - and not just the effect of patients being given at least some apparent "treatment".

Once it is known to work, however, new drugs should be tested against existing products to find out which works best, rather than having drug companies sponsor yet more trials which involve placebos - 18 in this case - in order to build up an apparent weight of evidence in the drug's favour.

"It is difficult not to conclude that this was an example of the industry failing to seek information that would allow true comparison against rival products", the doctors say in this week's *British Medical Journal*.

To gain a licence, drug companies have only to prove that their drug works - not that it works as well or better than others. In future, comparative data should be mandatory before a licence is given and the NHS may need itself to run such trials, the doctors argue.

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## "Nothing wrong with a bit of sex now and then."

This month in Q, lock up your tennis players as the world's most famous redhead, Mick Hucknall, takes us on a rollercoaster ride through the butterflies-inducing success of Stars, the head-spinning prospect of Life and the lunch-evacuating reality of, well, sacking everybody.

**PLUS!** Pulp's 16 years in an irony print shirt, PJ Harvey vamps it up in America, 10 protest songs that changed the world and, in shorts, AC/DC.

And in the world's only wipe-clean reviews section: Oasis, Def Leppard, k.d. lang, Fleetwood Mac, Human League, Brian Wilson, Erasure, Janet Jackson and Santana.



**Q History**  
As it happens.

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## news

# Firm suspected of breaking Serb embargo

CHRIS BLACKHURST

Two executives from a company in Cyprus are being refused entry to Britain because officials fear the firm has been dealing with the Bosnian Serbs in defiance of a United Nations embargo.

The two work for East Point Holdings which has an office in Mayfair, central London, and is registered at Companies House. East Point is on the US Government hit-list of companies

suspected of busting sanctions which prohibit anything other than food or medical supplies reaching the Bosnian Serbs.

Chris Peacock, of the Department of Public Affairs at the US Treasury in Washington, said East Point was on the federal warning list. "If someone is on the list, all transactions with them by US persons are prohibited and all their assets which come into the US jurisdiction are blocked," he said.

He added that a "very thorough" investigation, relying on information drawn from "all available agencies" had concluded the company had been trading with the Bosnian Serbs.

The US list is published mainly as a warning to banks not to make loans to such companies. No such list is available in this country and firms on the US register are allowed to carry on trading freely. Only if Customs decide to investigate and a prosecution ensues, do they face any ban.

According to documents at Companies House in London, East Point describes itself as a "general trader" and has a turnover of \$300m (£190m) a year. On the register, its directors are listed as two Greek Cypriots based in Nicosia. The company recently took out a mortgage with the Cyprus Popular Bank to redevelop new UK premises in Chesterfield Street, Mayfair.

East Point owns 90 per cent of Yu Point, a Yugoslavian

company and 51 per cent of M Point in Hungary.

At their existing premises in Albermarle Street, Mayfair, East Point's UK staff are furious at the Foreign Office's refusal to grant their colleagues visas. They deny emphatically ever having themselves broken sanctions. In an eerily quiet office - the phones rang just once during the Independent's visit - they said their business was dealing in "agricultural machinery, metals and oil derivatives - crude oil". They

knew they were working for a firm accused by the US of sanctions-breaking. "We can't understand what is going on; it is a problem we can't explain," said the UK manager. He and his two assistants refused to give their names, claiming it would "not be helpful."

While the directors are listed as Greek Cypriots, they admitted the real bosses are Yugoslavs now living in Russia and Cyprus. The three staff in

London said they were all Serbs and professed outrage at the Western alliance's treatment of their people.

"Why did the US attack Serbian positions?" As to the horrific attack on the Sarajevo market place which prompted the Nato assault, that was not the Serbs. "The Serbs did not attack the market; it was the Muslims in act of provocation," they explained. Warning to their theme, they said there had been "atrocities on all sides

but we never hear of them".

They refused to elaborate on what they are doing in London. "We are just looking for markets, we have no real business here," said the manager. They would like their colleagues to be able to join them and want to move into the new building. As for the UN blockade, he said, "we hope sanctions will go, so one day we can continue to work". Until then, they stressed, they will not be trading with the people back home.

## 'Living dead' up for grabs in Cottle's shop of horrors

WILL BENNETT

The Bride of Dracula smiled serenely at curious onlookers, the blood dripping from her mouth as she lay in her coffin under a sign which invited them to "view one of the living dead".

In her heyday, the animated figure was part of a ghost train ride looming out of the darkness to frighten holidaymakers. But youngsters today expect something more spectacular and it is a few years since she made any body scream.

Yesterday, the bride fetched £510 at one of the most extraordinary house clearance auctions ever held in Britain. Gerry Cottle, entrepreneur and former circus owner, had decided to empty his barn at his winter headquarters at Addlestone Moor, Surrey.

No one could ever accuse Mr Cottle, who has handed over the running of his circus to his three daughters, of being sentimental. As he viewed items he had collected over 25 years in circuses and fairgrounds, he said: "In the winter, we need to use this shed for servicing the vehicles and we don't have room for all this."

Buyers, some from the United States, Germany and the Netherlands, picked their way through the shed with the reverential awe of children let loose in a toyshop so wonderful that they barely knew where to start. About the only thing not for sale was a huge illuminated sign bearing the Cottle name.

Quadro and Lazar, otherwise known as Hughie and Christie O'Neill, from Woking, Surrey, were after an organ for



Last gasp: The Bride of Dracula looks out from her coffin as the bidding gets under way in Gerry Cottle's barn sale. Photograph: Edward Sykes

their magic shop and props for their stage illusions and comedy act.

Mr O'Neill said: "It is very unusual for this type of stuff to come on to the market, some of it is just irreplaceable. I am sur-

prised he is selling it." Paul White, an amateur enthusiast from Lingfield, Surrey, added: "It is the memorabilia in the auction that attracts me. But it is quite sad that it is being sold - it is a bit like being at some-

body's funeral." When bidding got under way, a two-headed calf, made by a taxidermist to shock circus-goers, fetched £210 and an eight-legged lamb, £200.

A small Thomas the Tank En-

gine ride went for £160, while fibreglass clown masks, from Butlins holiday camps in the 1950s, sold for £60 to £100 each.

But a waxwork figure of Queen Victoria, which had

gazed sternly down on the proceedings from the platform by the auctioneer, failed to find a buyer. She looked so disapproving that even the most ardent enthusiasts were probably too frightened to bid.

## Shoppers make light work of metrication

MARY BRAID

A rallying call for a national anti-metric hero to step forth and save our Anglo-Saxon heritage was issued yesterday - but it failed to spark a popular rebellion.

Sir George Gardiner, senior Conservative right-winger, stood up for Little Englanders everywhere when he condemned the metrication of Britain's weights and measures as "a day of shame for all past governments who have pawed our heritage, knowing they can never buy it back."

So much had been eroded but now was time to rise up, in defence of pounds and feet. "All power to traders who refuse to bow to this dictat, and give their customers the choice," he encouraged. "And just wait for the public outcry if one of them is hauled before the courts."

But a small demonstration by a dozen members of the UK Independence Party outside a west London branch of Sainsbury's was the height of mass resistance. At the store's branch in Camden, where metric measurement has been phased in over three months, shoppers were largely unfazed by Day One of the new order. "Luvvie its easy," soothed an elderly lady at the meat fridge running her finger down one of store's large conversion posters. "No need for a fuss. Schoolchildren have been doing it for ages and I taught myself last week. You

have to move with the times."

Others were not even aware of this latest assault on the nation's pride. "Metri-what love," asked the trader in the market down the road. "Exciting, innit?"

All over Britain news agencies tried to ferret out the disgruntled. Bristol anglers were furious to discover that the traditional pint of maggots might soon come in litres. For some bizarre reason, seaworms were given a reprieve until the year 2000.

Ian Macaulay, host at the Bell pub near Newbury, Berkshire, pledged that in his public house a pint of shandy would remain just that - despite the EC ruling that it was a soft drink and should therefore be measured in litres. The Bell, where money is still stored in a drawer, not a till, and the bar is no more than a hatch in the wall, is a shrine to those who would resist the march of time.

Grocer David Wood, the only supplier of petrol in the village of Little Marsham, Kent, sadly drew his last gallon from his 1946 pump, complaining that the EC directive was yet another nail in the small businesses' coffin. "It seems to me they just don't want the little people any more - it's all being set up for the big shops."

For Bob Brown, on the vegetable stall at Camden market, the only relief was that he was unaffected for another five years. He would resist till the end - the only hope was a referendum.

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## Pioneering trial to recycle TV sets and kettles

CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Correspondent

Unwanted toasters, kettles, televisions and other domestic appliances will be recycled in an ambitious scheme starting today among 10,000 homes in West Sussex.

The 12-month trial in Worthing and Midhurst is the first of its kind in Europe, and will try to find out how much valuable material can be recovered from products that would normally be thrown on to waste tips.

If it proves profitable, the scheme could be extended to recycle materials from a number of areas. Industry estimates suggest 500,000 tons of electrical and electronic equipment are thrown away every year, equivalent to about 27 kilograms of waste from each household.

Unwanted appliances can contain valuable products, such as aluminium, gold and silver (in electrical contacts), iron and steel, as well as plastics that can be recycled for use in other

products. The study, funded by the Industry Council for Electronic and Electrical Equipment Recycling (ICER), will investigate whether it is economic to recover them. Paper recycling projects, for example, have often proved unprofitable because of the varying cost of paper.

People in Worthing and Midhurst will be asked to take gadgets - "anything with a plug or battery" - to a disposal site. Refrigerators will be treated separately because they contain CFCs, which cannot be released into the atmosphere.

A weekly collection will take the remaining items to four recycling companies. The service will be free. "There is a similar scheme running in some German districts, but people have to pay for it," said Claire Snow, director of the industry body ICER which is sponsoring the trial. "That means people don't use the service as much as they could." The German scheme concentrates on retrieving gold and silver from the electrical

contacts of television sets. ICER expects to collect about 250 tons of waste equipment during the trial. "We are really trying to concentrate on the practical aspects," said Ms Snow. "Nobody has any idea how much useful stuff will really come out of the jumble of things you collect." ICER hopes to have preliminary results by the end of the year, including analysis of the comparative volumes collected of plastics, metals, rubber, glass and organic materials. "The problem is that, compared to commercial waste, where there is a legal requirement for the producer to control its disposal, very little is known about domestic waste," said Ms Snow. "The Government recently emphasised the importance of recycling in this field, but it's a big challenge in any national recycling stream." However, the Government has not contributed any money. The £75,000 cost of the trial is being provided by ICER's 41 member companies.



New leaves: Visitors exploring the thinning Hampton Court maze in south-west London, which is soon to be replanted. Photograph: David Sandison

## Comeback for corncrake

NICHOLAS SCHOON  
Environment Correspondent

One of Britain's most endangered birds, the corncrake, shows signs of coming back from the brink. For two years running its numbers have increased in the Hebridean islands and Orkney where it has made its last stand.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds estimates that the number of calling males has risen from 480 to 570 over the past two years.

The corncrake, a relative of the moorhen which winters in south-east Africa, was a common farmland bird before the Second World War.

Many older people can still remember its rasping call. It has been a victim of the modern-



Returning: Corncrakes are multiplying in Hebrides

sation of farming, which has denied it the tall grass it needs through spring and most of summer.

It had held out in Northern Ireland as well as in the Scottish islands but the last time it bred in Ulster was in 1993. Numbers have risen recently in the Irish Republic, however.

RSPB experiments on the Hebridean island of Coll have

shown that the timing and method of hay cutting are crucial for the survival of the corncrake nestlings in crofters' fields.

For the past four years it has joined with the Scottish Crofters' Union and the Government in running a scheme which pays crofters to not cut hay or silage until after 31 July.

To get the money, the crofters also have to mow in a way which reduces the risk of the young birds fleeing into the path of the reaper. The scheme cost £300,000 to run this year.

Stuart Housden of the RSPB said: "We have a real chance of halting the slide towards extinction."

He urged all farmers on land with corncrake potential to take up the payments.

## NOTICE TO INVESTORS

National & Provincial Building Society hereby gives notice that the annual rates of interest payable on the following accounts, with effect from 2 October 1995, will be as indicated below:

Name of Account	Minimum Balance	Gross Interest Rate*	Net Interest Rate**
Instant Reserve	1	1.00	0.75
Under 16s receive	500	3.50	2.62
£500 rate for	2,500	3.65	2.73
£1 to £500	5,000	3.85	2.88
	10,000	4.25	3.18
	25,000	4.60	3.45
Private Reserve	500	4.00	3.00
Annual Interest	5,000	4.20	3.15
	10,000	4.95	3.71
	25,000	5.45	4.08
	50,000	5.75	4.31
	100,000	5.85	4.38
Private Reserve	500	3.93	2.94
Monthly Income	5,000	4.13	3.09
	10,000	4.85	3.63
	25,000	5.32	3.99
	50,000	5.61	4.20
	100,000	5.70	4.27
Investment Reserve	5,000	5.50	4.12
Annual Interest†	10,000	6.00	4.50
	25,000	6.30	4.72
	50,000	6.50	4.87
	100,000	6.75	5.06
Investment Reserve	5,000	5.43	4.07
Monthly Income†	10,000	5.91	4.43
	25,000	6.20	4.65
	50,000	6.39	4.79
	100,000	6.63	4.97
TESSA***	1	6.00	N/A
Annual Interest	Max Investment	6.50	N/A
TESSA***	1	5.85	N/A
Monthly Income			
M.A.X.	1	1.00	0.75
Treasurer's Reserve	1	1.75	1.31
	500	3.70	2.77
	5,000	3.95	2.96
	10,000	4.70	3.52
	25,000	5.20	3.90

\*The gross interest rate shown is the rate payable without taking account of the deduction of income tax. \*\*The net interest rate shown represents the gross interest rate after the deduction of income tax at the basic rate (currently 25%). †Interest on TESSA accounts is exempt from income tax provided the TESSA conditions are met. ‡Gross interest rates quoted by Investment Reserve include 1.25% gross extra interest payable on 1 June each year for on the first of each month the monthly income (gross) provided that withdrawal conditions are met and balance remains over £5,000. All other variable rate accounts not specifically mentioned in this notice remain unchanged.

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## news

# Hospital funding stokes NHS controversy

COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

The go-ahead is to be given for four privately financed NHS hospitals by the Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell, in a move that is certain to cause a fresh controversy over the future of the health service.

Stonehaven in Scotland will be followed by a new £100m hospital for the NHS covering Norwich and Norfolk. Private sector building firms will also put up the money for hospital units costing millions of pounds in Bishop Auckland, Swindon and Marlborough, and North Durham.

Under the plans, the NHS will run the hospitals for NHS patients, but the buildings will be owned by the private construction companies on NHS land. Nick Brown, shadow health minister, said he had evidence in leaked papers that the private contracts could be limited to nine years, raising doubts about the NHS retaining use of the buildings in the long term.

Ministerial sources were anxious to deny that it was a step

towards the privatisation of the NHS. But Labour is hostile to the plans. The Treasury has relaxed its rules to allow the hospitals to be built, providing that the private sector accepts the risk for the building.

The NHS will increasingly rely on the private finance initiative for capital spending, as the Treasury imposes a moratorium on capital projects to cut public expenditure. Over the last 10 years, there were 10 contracts for NHS hospitals for over £25m, but there are 25 schemes for that amount by the private sector in the pipeline.

Mr Dorrell will challenge Labour to accept privately financed projects in a series of speeches, which will seek to exploit alleged differences of view between Mr Blair and Margaret Beckett, his shadow Secretary of State for Health, over whether Labour should allow private finance in the NHS.

Whitehall sources say Mr Dorrell is also considering relaxing the guidelines on the internal market in the NHS to allow more freedom of competition between hospitals for

business from GP fundholders. His strategy is likely to alarm Tory grass-roots supporters who have tabled motions for the party conference next month calling for the closure of Bart's and other hospitals to be halted.

There are also calls for a slow-down to the changes. Vauxhall Tories urged the Government to recognise "there needs to be a time of adjustment for all".

The moves risk raising fears that the Government is embarking on a privatisation programme for the NHS, which ministers deny. Mr Dorrell will tell the conference in a debate on health that the private finance initiative will boost the NHS and could double the building of hospitals costing over £25m for NHS patients.

He has rejected the advice to the Prime Minister by a former deputy chairman of the party, John Maples, in a leaked memorandum, that the Government should aim to keep health out of the headlines. He is determined to take a high profile, but to do more to reassure the voters that the Government is improving the health service.



Old ways: A nurse, Elizabeth Smith, with a patient at Arduithie hospital, Grampian

## Cottage care in the past as profit forms the future

Scotland used as test-bed for radical medical project. John Arlidge reports

The Government is to use Scotland as a test-bed for its most radical private finance project - the creation of Britain's first private NHS hospital, where all patients will be treated by medical staff working for profit-making firms.

Scottish Office ministers are urging the private sector to build, equip and run a new public hospital in Stonehaven, a fishing town near Aberdeen. More than five companies have already offered to fund the £6.5m centre, which will provide a wide range of services, including casualty, for up to 20,000 local people.

The initiative, which is backed by Grampian health board, the local health authority, has provoked a political storm. Labour, health unions and the British Medical Association say it marks the first, decisive step towards NHS privatisation.

Under the scheme, private investors will build and equip the new hospital, which will replace Stonehaven's two ageing "cottage" health centres - the Arduithie and the Woodcote. GPs will provide the in-house medical care but the health board will ask private firms to bid for the £2.5m annual contract to supply all clinical and ancillary services, including nursing.

Although Grampian Health-care Trust, the local NHS provider, is also expected to submit a tender, observers say that, with ministerial support, a private company is set to win. Firms will make their bids next month and health managers will announce the winner early next year. Because it is an NHS contract, treatment will continue to be free.

Health authority officials are turning to the private sector because they argue it can act faster than the cash-starved NHS. Frank Hartnett, general manager of Grampian health board, said: "With Treasury constraints on spending, the public sector cannot fund this project now. But top-quality private companies want to invest here right away. By using these firms, we can get an NHS hospital quickly and at no extra cost to the public."

Scottish Office officials, who are the driving force behind the initiative, agree. They argue that if the private sector builds and runs the new hospital, more public money will be available for other NHS projects.



Frank Hartnett: 'standards will be among the highest'

But doctors' leaders and opposition MPs bitterly oppose the plan. They insist it threatens to destroy the NHS. Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association, argues that "the very essence of the NHS" is at stake in Stonehaven.

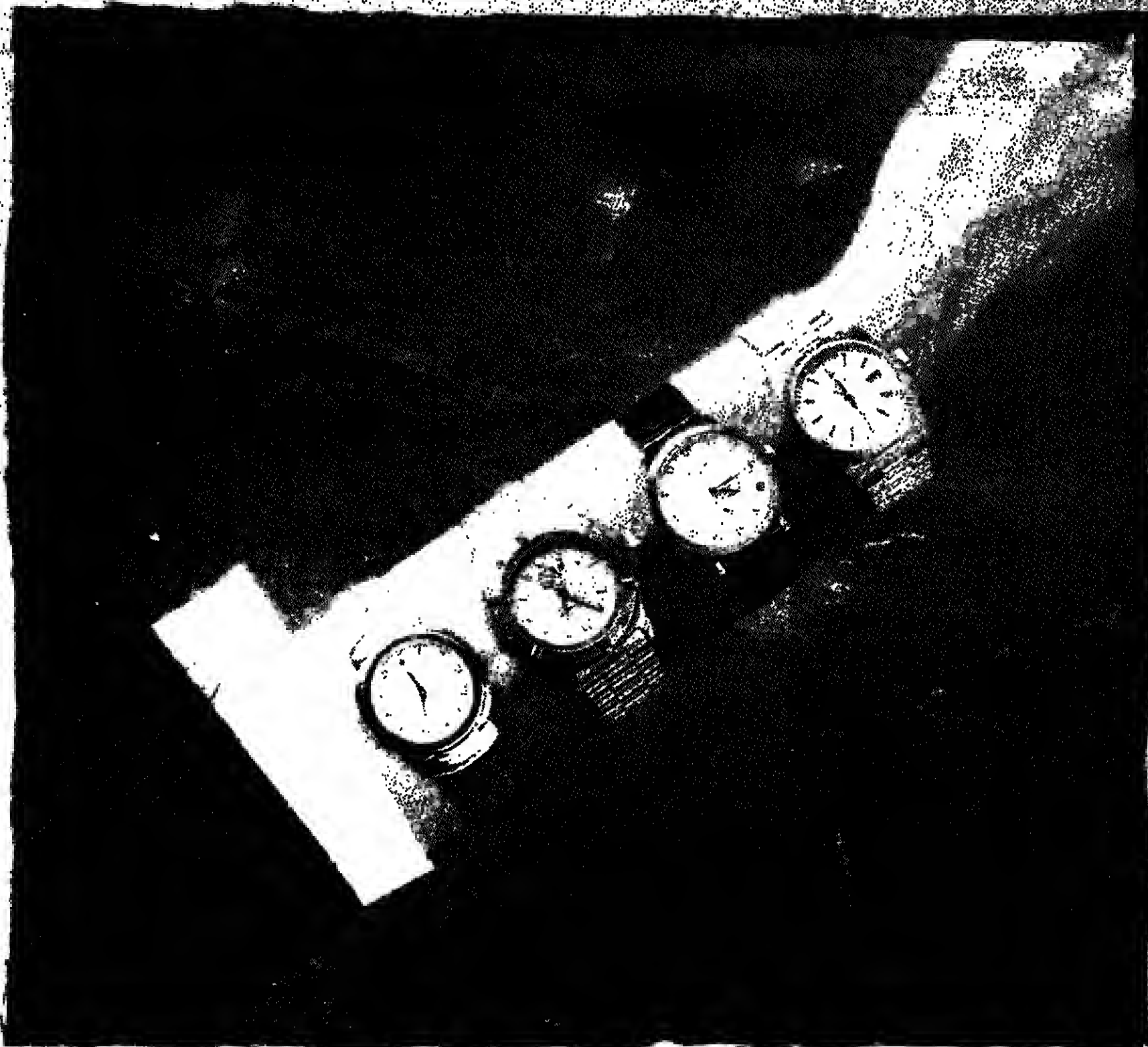
"Never before has an entire NHS clinical services contract been offered to the private sector. If a private company wins this contract, it will mark the end of the centrally planned and resourced health service - which has provided cheap, high-quality care across Britain for 50 years - and the beginning of a fragmented, privatised and ultimately more expensive service. That would be an unprecedented act of vandalism."

The proposals also worry local medical staff at Arduithie and Woodcote. They are concerned that a private company will bring in new employees or try to force down the wages of existing workers to increase profits. They also question how the health board will guarantee existing standards of care.

Mr Hartnett insists standards will be "among the highest" in Britain. "As a test case, this will be the most closely scrutinised hospital in the country." And he rejects claims that the scheme heralds the privatisation of the NHS. "This hospital will be part of the NHS and treatment will continue to be free. The only difference is that staff will not be public sector employees."

Whoever wins the contract, the Government wants to conclude the process by next April so that the hospital can open before the next election and ministers can use it to bolster the case for private-public sector partnerships in the health service.

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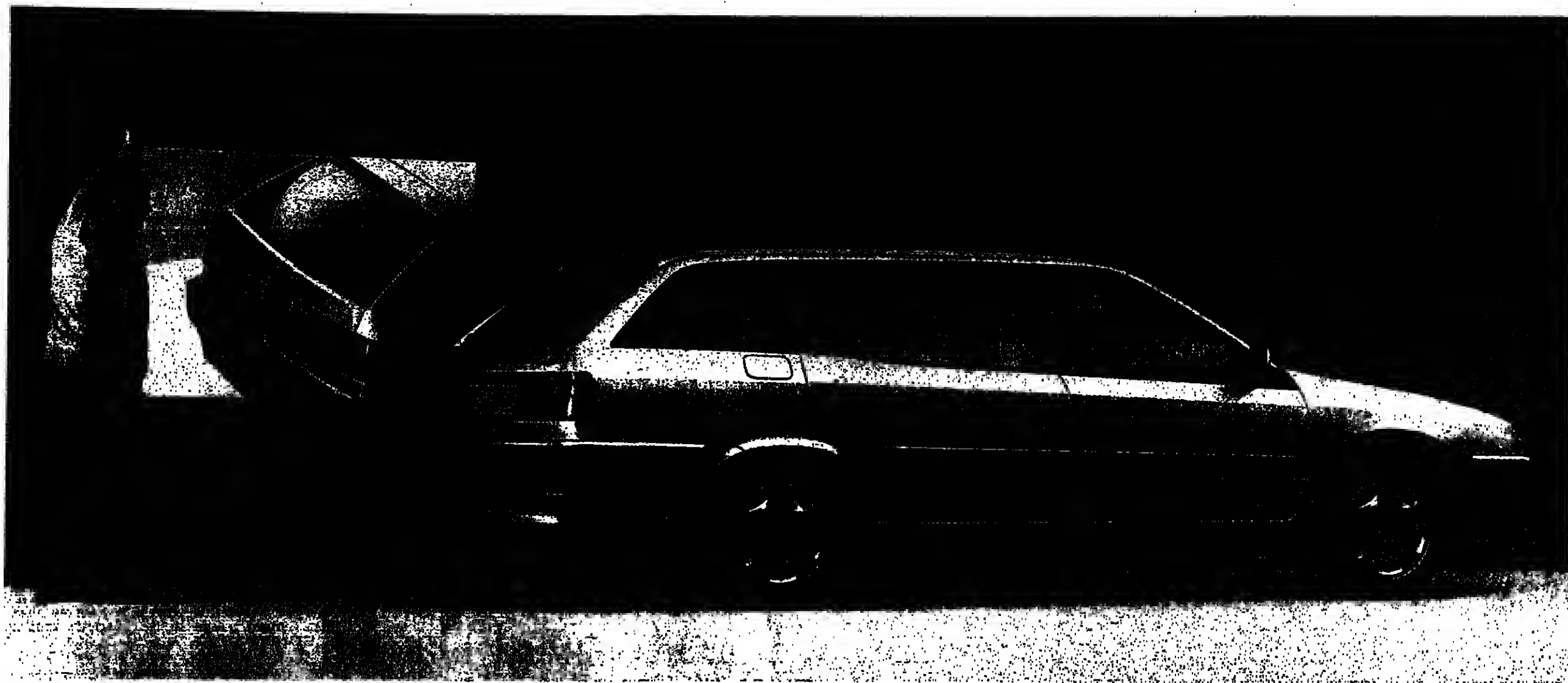
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## LABOUR IN BRIGHTON

## Brown to unveil £1.4bn youth jobs package

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES  
Political Correspondent

Labour will today make a firm commitment to earmark £1.4bn for youth job creation and training, while setting its face against shopping lists of "irresponsible" spending commitments.

Disclosing a four-pronged package of measures for the under-25s on the conference's opening day, Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, will tell delegates that the "fate of this generation of Thatcher's children – now Major's young unemployed – is a human tragedy on a colossal scale that affects millions of families. Our objective is nothing less than the abolition of youth unemployment."

The package to help 620,000 unemployed people aged 18-24 will form a manifesto commitment at the next general election. Cash from the one-off "windfall tax" on the private utilities would be used to help the "forgotten generation" of

jobless young people find work, Mr Brown told BBC's *Breakfast* with *First* programme yesterday.

Private-sector employers would be offered a £60 a week rebate for six months for each person taken on full time under the age of 25 and unemployed for six months – on condition they guarantee one day off a

week to study for National Vocational Qualifications.

For non-profit voluntary sector jobs, young people would be allowed to keep their welfare benefits, averaging £55 a week plus £20, again on condition that they are allowed one day a week day-release for NVQ study. Graduates would be ex-

empted from the NVQ condition.

Alternatively, young people who signed up for Labour's planned environment taskforce would be allowed to keep their benefits plus £20, again subject to the day-release requirement.

Under the fourth avenue, Labour would relax the so-

called 16-hour-rule to enable young people following approved full-time training course to keep their benefits.

But firing a warning shot across the bows of his party's left wing, and in a rebuff to the Liberal Democrats, Mr Brown will deliver one of the strongest denunciations yet of Labour's

"tax and spend" image. "The real economic issue facing Britain is not the Tory lip down or the Liberal lip up. The real economic issue that concerns millions is how to end job insecurity," Mr Brown will say during the debate on the party's economic policy paper, *A New Economic Future for Britain*.

"I say to those who propose that we tax, spend and borrow, it is because I care not just about our responsibility to one another but our responsibility to future generations that we build our future on the hard foundations of a just and efficient economy. Under a Labour government there will be no in-

flationary boom, no massaging of figures, no quick fixes, no short cuts, no pay explosions, and no shopping lists of irresponsible commitment."

The job creation and training package goes far further than last year's pledge to give a employers a £75 a week rebate for six months for taking on people who had been unemployed for more than two years.

Under the new proposals, 700,000 offers of employment and training would have to be made during the first year to cope with the 305,000 young people already unemployed for more than six months and the 400,000 who would join them.

Labour economists have advised that the scheme would cost £1.6bn in the first year and £400m in the second but would reap savings by the end of the Parliament. The party estimates that the one-off levy on the privatised industries would produce between £2.5bn and £3bn of revenue.

## Free child care helps lone parents return to work

NICHOLAS TIMMINS  
and DONALD MACINTYRE

The Jet programme – Jobs, Education and Training – was launched more than five years ago, targeted at lone parents with the aim of helping them back into work.

According to Labour's Social Justice Commission, which advocated the idea, it has reached nearly half of Australia's lone parents, significantly raising their levels of training, em-

ployment and earnings. "Savings have consistently outstripped targets and are now close to the overall programme costs," according to the commission. "Indeed, the programme has been so successful that the Australian government is now considering extending it to the registered long-term unemployed."

A key reason for the scheme's success was the help

it offers with child care. Lone parents who are training or unemployed receive priority in publicly funded child-care services but the programme can finance temporary child care for its clients if they have trouble finding suitable help.

Under the Social Justice Commission's proposals, a UK Jet programme would provide a comprehensive re-employ-

ment service, providing a "one-stop re-employment shop" advising on education and training services, career possibilities, job openings and child-care facilities, as well as help in moving from out-of-work to in-work benefits.

The service should concentrate initially on those out-of-work for more than a year, allowing people newly unem-

ployed to simply sign on for the first 26 weeks – largely because many newly unemployed people find jobs quickly. It should then concentrate on those out of work for more than six months to ensure they do not remain so after a year.

Its role would include sponsoring "micro-entrepreneurs" who have the talent to move from unemployment to self-

employment. According to British Labour sources, the Australian government has saved £60m since introducing the scheme five years ago because it does not have to pay single parents' benefit to women in the scheme.

Although in the long term single parents who are provided with child-care facilities and suitable job opportunities could be required to accept work, there is no question of introducing compulsion at this stage.

## Union warning to Blair over voting share

BARRIE CLEMENT  
Labour Editor

Union leaders have warned Tony Blair they will fight any fresh attempt to reduce their influence over policy-making in the Labour Party.

In a recent meeting senior union representatives told the Labour leader that their vote at annual conferences should not be cut below 50 per cent.

Unions will wield 70 per cent of the votes at this week's annual party assembly in Brighton, but the proportion is due to move down to half next year.

At the biennial conference of the Transport and General Workers' Union in the summer Mr Blair indicated that he could envisage the percentage being reduced further as individual party membership increased.

However at a meeting of the "contact" group in the Commons, leaders of all the largest Labour affiliates told Mr Blair that they had serious misgivings about his policy of "constant revolution" of the party's internal structure.

Reactions about the contact meeting will be used by the Government to argue that the party is still "in lock" to the unions despite the new Labour image promoted by Mr Blair.

Most worrying for the party leadership was the attitude of the ultra-loyalist and right-led

Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, which was among the affiliates counselling caution on any further changes. The AEEU has been the one of the most vociferous supporters of one-member-one-vote in the party and the union's leaders have previously said the principle should be extended to policy-making assemblies.

Ken Jackson, acting general secretary of the AEEU, revealed yesterday that Mr Blair had been warned that union voting power should not be reduced below half.

"The trade union movement is united left, right and centre on this issue," said Mr Jackson. "We agreed that 50 per cent should be the floor."

"We believe union members form a fair chunk of the electorate. If they support the Labour Party, they should have a major involvement in policy-making." He said that if unions backed the reduction of the percentage even further they would be acting like "turkeys voting for Christmas". It was important that the interests of working people were represented.

Mr Jackson also said the union disagreed with Mr Blair's over the sponsorship of MPs. The Labour executive is consulting members over a plan to channel financial backing from unions to constituencies rather than individual MPs.

## Officials move to avert low-pay vote

Senior Labour officials and representatives of the biggest unions were in pursuit of a conference delegate in Brighton last night in an attempt to avert potential embarrassment today in a debate on the national minimum wage, writes Barrie Clement.

The party and its major affiliates hoped to persuade Jane Saren, from Edinburgh Central constituency, to remit a motion calling for a rate of £4.15. Party leaders want a low-pay commission to advise on a minimum figure under the Labour government and is anxious to avert a conference vote for any particular rate.

If Ms Saren refuses to co-operate, the chances of the motion being passed were hanging in the balance last night after unions seemed to be split on the issue. The largest affiliate, the Transport & General Workers Union,

had sought the remission of the proposition, but opted to oppose it if it is tabled. The union's policy is to back the £4.15 but T&G delegates are prepared to vote against it because of what appeared to be a drafting error. The composite motion called for a minimum to be struck at half male median earnings to be updated eventually to two-thirds of average earnings.

Bill Morris, leader of the T&G, pointed out his union's policy was that the amount should rise over time to two-thirds of "median" earnings. He denied his union was voting against the resolution to placate Tony Blair. The T&G leader said the wording of the motion was "confused" and that it was difficult to see how it could be passed.

The GMB general union also wants the proposition to be remitted but will back it if it goes before the conference.



Eye of the storm: Liz Davies in Brighton yesterday. She got a heroine's welcome at a Campaign for Labour Party Democracy rally. Photograph: John Voss

## High command tries to quell Davies row

Labour's high command yesterday offered angry delegates the chance to debate the blocking of the left-winger Liz Davies as a parliamentary candidate in an attempt to quell a potentially explosive dispute, writes Patricia Wynn Davies and Stephen Goodwin.

Tension over the issue was not eased when it emerged last night that 13 resolutions for an emergency debate had been thrown out by conference organisers. Instead, two of those submitting the motions will be invited to speak on a national

executive committee statement.

The national executive committee voted by 24 to 2 to opt for the compromise which party chiefs hope will contain the controversy, with Dennis Skinner and Diane Abbott, the two left-wing members, voting against in protest at the refusal to treat the issue as an emergency. The move to allow a limited debate could be challenged on the conference floor today.

Party chiefs have confirmed that the 31-year-old barrister was vetoed from standing as the duly selected candidate for

Leeds North East even though no specific findings of guilt had been made.

But Tom Sawyer, the party's general secretary, insisted that the national executive had refused to endorse her because of her "long track-record of actions which include breaking the whip and being economical with the truth on certain items and her attitude over a long period of time".

Ms Davies got a heroine's welcome at an earlier left-wing Campaign for Labour Party Democracy pre-conference ral-

ly. Defending her link with the socialist *Labour Briefing*, which played a part in the refusal to endorse her, she said to apologise: "The only thing that *Labour Briefing* has done wrong is that sometimes it upsets the Labour Party leadership."

"I don't apologise for that. I believe the leadership should be held to account and should be scrutinised by party members." Ms Abbott MP, a left-wing NEC member who was absent from last week's vote to drop Ms Davies as a candidate, launched a direct attack on Tony Blair,

saying: "It seems that a Blair government is going to shrink from doing even the most elementary things to make good the damage that 18 years of Tory government has done to our people and to our movement."

She added: "I am perfectly clear, as are many members of the NEC, that we were not presented with a technical reason not to endorse Liz Davies... the problem apparently with Liz Davies is that she is a socialist."

Alan Simpson, MP for Nottingham South, called the move a "crude and cruel witch-hunt".

## Supporters of PR face knife-edge vote

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES  
and STEPHEN GOODWIN

Clare Short MP: Backs electoral reform

Labour supporters of a referendum on voting reform for the Commons were last night braced for a knife-edge vote on retaining the policy, amid fears that a big union might realign itself.

Speaking after an AEEU delegation meeting, Ken Jackson, acting general secretary, said his union did not want minority parties dictating policy to the Government – one of the principal objections to proportional representation.

A conference vote on Thursday over whether to reaffirm John Smith's pledge to let the

voters decide on the voting system for general elections was already set to be close, and likely to be clinched by the attitude of constituency party delegates who have 30 per cent of the conference vote.

Among the large unions accounting for the lion's share of the 70 per cent block vote, the GMB is ready to reaffirm its backing for a referendum, although it still favours first-past-the-post itself. But if the AEEU joins the TGWU and possibly Unison, the vote could be lost.

Jack Straw, the shadow Home Secretary, personally backs keeping first-past-the-post but will make a strong appeal in his speech on Thursday

for Mr Smith's pledge to be retained, arguing that 20 years of argument must be resolved by asking the British people. And the party's national executive committee yesterday decided to support a motion favouring a referendum, instead of remaining neutral as in the last two years.

One key campaigner for the reform said yesterday: "It would be a democratic outrage if this is determined by the union block vote."

But speaking at a fringe meeting, the left-winger Alice Mahon, MP for Halifax, said "certain people" on the NEC had changed their minds because they were "running

scared and would welcome a smaller coalition with smaller parties. I think the moves to snuggle up to the Lib Dems are linked with that kind of thinking. There would be a permanent job for Paddy Ashdown."

The issue is one that transcends traditional left-right divisions, however. Supporters of PR include Blair ultra-loyalist and Northern Ireland Spokesman Majorie Mowlem, Robin Cook, shadow Foreign Secretary, and Clare Short, the women's spokesperson, from the "soft" left, along with left-winger Ken Livingstone, Bill Morris, the TGWU's general secretary and hardline NUM president Arthur Scargill.

The education spokesman also hinted at a review of the charitable status of independent schools. "We believe that schools like Eton, Prince William being there or anyone else, should not be treated as if they were Oxford. It is not our job to subsidise private education."

Trailing the themes Mr Blair will set out tomorrow, Mr Blunkett said welfare to work, raising standards in education and moving towards full employment were the core ideas of the modern Labour Party.

On the Labour leader's decision to send his son to the Oratory School, west London, Mr Blunkett said he thought Mr Blair was "wise to talk with his family about the options that would have been available to him if the Oratory School had remained a voluntary-aided school".

"No one would have blinked an eyelid had he sent his child there a few years ago."

## New money makes old Labour's poverty a distant memory

CHRIS BLACKHURST  
Westminster Correspondent

Labour is well on the way to supplanting the Conservatives as the wealthiest political party in Britain.

The Tories may have the highest income – and historically have been able to count on more cash than their rivals at election time – but they are now paying the price for running up a huge overdraft in the early Nineties. While they grapple to bring it down, Labour is putting millions aside for the next general election. Accounts released to party delegates in Brighton for the annual conference this week show that Tony Blair has had a galvanising effect on the party's financial as well as political fortunes.

Last year delegates are told, Labour's general election fighting fund doubled to £4.5m. The Tories, who meet next

week in Blackpool, will be exhorted by their leaders to try even harder. Their accounts show a good surplus in their last financial year of £2.95m but that came at the expense of further cuts at Central Office and they offer no indication of where the cash for the next general election, now less than two years away, will come from.

All three parties are overdrawn. The Tories pared £4.5m off their deficit last year which now stands at £11.37m; Labour has cut its deficit from a peak of £2.5m in 1992 to the present £1.1m, while the Liberal Democrats have reduced their overdraft to £150,000.

Despite that, the Lib Dems remain the poor relation. Unlike Labour, their work for the general election, to quote the chair of the party's finance committee, Tim Clement-Jones, is already "stretching our fund-raising capacity to the

## Paying for politics: Blair's leadership has transformed party finances as the Tories struggle with an £11m overdraft

limit". While their accounts are in good shape, the Lib Dems need every extra penny they can get if they are to fight the next election on anything remotely approaching a level playing field – hence initiatives

such as targeting Asian businesses for support.

While the Lib Dems have not put a foot wrong politically, the three parties' accounts show it is power or the real prospect of power that brings in the most

money. In a year of sleaze, splits over Europe and plunging poll ratings, the Tories still brought in £12.7m of donations, an increase of 35 per cent. As ever, the party stoically refuses to break that down between com-

panies and individuals. While supporters still seem happy to pay, the Tories' dismal political performance may account for a slump in takings from the sale of books and souvenirs – a major factor in a £900,000 drop in sundry income. A resurgent Labour, by contrast, saw its earnings from publications more than double, from £131,000 to £335,000.

With Labour having almost doubled its membership to 350,000 since Mr Blair took over, his party is clearly riding the crest of a financial wave. Even so, he ignores the unions at his peril. They still account for about half of total income. As for all those people rushing to join, they do not come cheap. In the accounts, expenditure on "membership processing" has gone up from £547,000 to £605,000.

The worry for the Tories is that while they have slashed the

Central Office operation to the bone, it still eats money. Massively unpopular with the constituencies – last year almost 500 local associations failed to pay their full Central Office quotas with more than a dozen contributing nothing at all – staff costs at Smith Square continue to rise, up from £5.7m to £5.9m last year.

As delegates gather in Brighton and Blackpool, they might reflect that they are making a vital contribution to party coffers. Annual conferences have become a vital part of the political year – not just for buoying up delegates and guaranteeing a media platform for a week. They are also big business. In 1993, Labour made a total profit of £26,000 from its conference.

Last year, in Blackpool with Mr Blair, it made £119,000. This week's profits should be even higher.

## Today's business

Conference will debate economic policy and renewal, fair taxes and benefits, and rights at work, including the minimum wage. The results of elections for the national executive committee, the national constitutional committee and the conference arrangements committee will also be announced.



# Media circus comes to town for the West trial

WILL BENNETT

Winchester has staged important trials for hundreds of years. Sir Walter Raleigh stood accused of treason in the Great Hall in 1603 and, in more recent times, IRA terrorists have been driven to the Crown Court amid tight security.

But the ancient Hampshire city, once home to the kings of Wessex, has never seen anything like the international media circus which is set to surround the trial of Rosemary West, on 10 charges of murder, which begins on Tuesday.

From the moment that the date and venue of the trial was announced six months ago the telephones in Winchester's hotels began to ring as journalists, television crews, legal teams and others involved in the trial vied to book the city's 617 rooms.

Hotel managers had to balance the obvious commercial benefits of block media bookings for the trial, which is expected to last seven weeks, against the needs to reserve

and introduced extra security measures.

The trial will take place in Court Three, which is spacious, modern, and utterly different from the austere oak-panelled grandeur of the Old Bailey where so many famous murder trials have been held.

Mr Justice Mantell, presiding judge of the western judicial circuit, noted for his love of cricket and a kindly manner, will hear the case. He also presided over the Joy Gardner case, when three police officers were acquitted of the manslaughter of Mrs Gardner, an illegal immigrant, earlier this year.

The prosecution will be led by Brian Leveson QC, who took over the case from Neil Butterfield QC when the latter was appointed a High Court judge. He represented the Football Association when George Graham, the former Arsenal manager, was banned from the sport for accepting cash payments during transfer deals.

Mrs West will be represented by Richard Ferguson QC, one of Britain's best known defence barristers. A former Ulster Unionist politician who chaired the Criminal Bar Association last year, his many high-profile briefs have included defending both Ernest Saunders in the Guinness case and Terry Marsh, the former boxer acquitted of the attempted murder of promoter Frank Warren.

To Mr Leveson's right will sit Detective Superintendent John Bennett, the officer who led the murder inquiry which began at the West family home at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, on 24 February 1994 and which ultimately cost £1.4 million.

People in the 52-seat public gallery, who are likely to include relatives of those found buried at Cromwell Street, will not be able to see Mrs West, 41, in the dock below. She now faces the charges alone following the suicide of her husband Frederick in prison last New Year's Day.

During the trial Mrs West will be held in Winchester Prison, half a mile from the court. There she will live in a special unit made from seven cells in the prison's segregation wing, which includes her own washing machine and dryer, and a visiting room where she can meet her family and lawyers.

Getting Mrs West from the prison to the court and back each day during the trial is the responsibility of Inspector Paul Stallard of Hampshire Police. He estimates that the journey will take two minutes each way, although one of the motorcycle escorts believes that they could do it in 75 seconds if necessary.

The road will be closed to other traffic during these two brief periods and 15 extra police officers will be on duty to control over-enthusiastic photographers and television crews, and curious members of the public. Insp Stallard said: "My aim is to get Mrs West down to the court and back again with the minimum of hindrance to herself and the minimum of inconvenience to the people of Winchester."

Mrs West denies the charges.



Rosemary West: Trial for murder begins tomorrow

rooms for the regular customers who support them in less hectic times. David Johnson, general manager of the 94-room Forte Crest, just 200 yards from the city's cathedral, said: "Loyalty to our regular customers is very important and we have allocated 40 per cent of the rooms in the hotel to the media and the rest to other clients."

Empty flats and offices near the Crown Court were rented within weeks, mostly for television crews, and restaurants and other small businesses expect a boost in trade just as the normal tourist season in Winchester winds down. About 130 reporters and hundreds of newspaper and television cameramen from all over the world are expected.

The case went to Winchester for security reasons and because the recently completed Crown Court in Bristol is too close to the scene of the alleged murders in Gloucester. Winchester's court also has better facilities for coping with intense media interest than the Old Bailey in London.

For Alan Davison, chief clerk to Winchester Crown Court, the case has meant a much larger workload. He has leased two disused magistrates' courts next door to serve as a media annex, installed more telephone lines,

## Fried Mars Bar and chips wins place on the menu



Work, rest and fry: A Mars Bar goes into the fryer Photograph: Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert

JOHN ARLIDGE  
Scotland Correspondent

Walk into the Haven fish and chip shop in Stonehaven and ask for a Mars Bar from the sweet counter. "Plain or in batter?" asks Evelyn Balgowan, who has been frying in the town's leading chippy since she was 14. For locals there is only one answer: "In batter, with chips."

This year Scots, for whom fried food is the only food, have invented a new dish - the Mars Bar supper, the famous combination of sugar, glucose and chocolate covered in thick, thick fish-batter, with a plastic tray of chips, for just 99p.

It started in Stonehaven, near Aberdeen, which until now has only been famous for its fish. This summer one local man, bored with his daily staple, asked Miss Balgowan for a Mars Bar and suggested she fry it. "I just dunked it in the batter and chucked it in the fryer," she said. "The batter stopped the chocolate melting and the result was crispy on the outside and gooey on the inside." The man liked the new sweet take-away and, once local children heard about the delicacy, the



Dietician's nightmare: A favourite with the young

quene at 4pm stretched round the block. Ria Fowler, 15, who works in her auntie's fish shop after school, said she liked the new, warm Mars because "it's sweet and sticks to your teeth".

And now that the dish's popularity is spreading - Mars Bars are frying tonight across Scotland - the Haven has extended its menu to include deep-fried Yorkies, Snickers, Crunchies, even Chewitts. But not everyone is happy. Some parents have criticised the chippie for encouraging youngsters to eat

high-fat, high-cholesterol food in a country which has the worst heart-disease record in Western Europe. Miss Balgowan has even received hate mail. But she defends her creation: "It's not that much worse than a normal Mars Bar."

And the taste? For a true Stonehaven supper the Independent recommends a large deep-fried pickled egg with salad cream and chips, followed by a lightly fried Mars Bar, all washed down with Glasgow's finest - warm Irn-Bru.

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### DAILY POEM

At The End  
By RS Thomas

Few possessions: a chair,  
a table, a bed  
to sit my prayers by,  
and, gathered from the shore,  
the home-like, crossed sticks  
proving that nature  
acknowledges the Crucifixion.  
All night I am at  
a window not too small  
to be framed to the stars  
that are no further off  
than the city lights  
I have rejected. By day  
the passers-by, who are not  
pilgrims, stare through the rain's  
bars, seeing me a prisoner  
of the one view, I who  
have been made free  
by the view, I who  
have been made free  
by the tide's pendulum truth  
that the heart that is low now  
will be at the full tomorrow.

RS Thomas was born in Cardiff in 1913 and has spent most of his life in Wales, from 1936 as a clergyman in the Church of Wales. One of the great poetic voices of the 20th century, now in his eighties, Thomas is still writing as powerfully as ever. His candidature for the Nobel Prize for Literature for 1996 is supported both by the latest winner, Kenzaburo Oe, and by Lord Gowrie. More than twenty books of his poetry have appeared since 1946, this poem taken from his latest collection published by Bloodaxe Books, *No Thrice with the Furies*.

RS Thomas will be reading from his poetry tomorrow at Jarvis Royal Hotel, Cardiff, at 8pm as part of the 1995 Cardiff Literature Festival. Box Office: inquiries to 01222 878444.

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Today  
business



10  
internationalEuropean summit: Finance ministers insist monetary union will go ahead on schedule but they still have to convince the public  
**Good ship 'Emu' wrenched back on course**SARAH HELM  
Valencia

Under the deep blue skies of the Spanish coast, Europe's future seemed suddenly so clear. Monetary union must go ahead, decided finance ministers, meeting in Valencia at the weekend.

Let nobody be in any doubt, the ministers declared, the good ship *Emu* is well on course to reach safe harbour by 1999, and national currencies will be replaced by a single European currency which will probably be called the Euro.

The meeting was another turning point for European monetary union. The ministers were under pressure to consider a delay, following signs that Germany might be wavering at the prospect of replacing the strong mark with an untested single currency. The Franco-German alliance was fracturing, amid fears that even France might not make the economic grade for

Emu, and opinion polls across Europe have shown growing public doubt.

The Valencia meeting left no question about the seriousness of European governments' intention to proceed. It was as if the turmoil in the financial market had never happened and as if the doubts of the Germans had suddenly been dispelled. "There will be time" to convince the people and "there will be time" to

quell the fears, chimed ministers, as the noise of public protest lapped away across the sea.

The real significance of the Valencia meeting, however, remains unclear. Was the determination of ministers to go ahead as planned an act of brave political leadership? Or did the Spanish sun just blind them to the wave of serious doubts which still threatened to push their ship off course?

Details of the timetable, and economic criteria, were clearly reaffirmed. In December this year, heads of government will make the final ruling on the currency's name, and settle practical plans for the changeover. The Valencia meeting decided. In January next year the European Commission will launch an advertising campaign to teach the public of Europe how the single currency will work. By the

end of 1997 all member states who are eligible to join, and wish to do so, must have their economies under tight control. The decisions on which countries have met the economic tests – including reducing public debt and budget deficits – will be based on 1997 economic results, and will be made as early in 1998 as possible.

On 1 January 1999, monetary union will begin with the locking of exchange rates, and the launch of a single monetary policy. After three years Euro notes and coins will start to circulate. For six months national currencies will circulate in parallel with Euro-money, but will then cease to be legal tender.

But the trouble is that the more Europe's ministers set out detailed plans for monetary union the more likely they are to fuel public doubt. Recent disputes have lulled the public into believing that monetary union may never happen. So arcane has the *Emu* debate been so far,

so weighted down with dogma, that the European public has not been brought face-to-face with the reality of losing familiar notes and coins. Once the currency is finally named and the education campaign starts, however, the public will start to give its verdict: the signs suggest that it might well be "no".

Britain's scepticism is well known, and at Valencia Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, reassured Britain's right to exercise its opt-out. However, whatever timetables Valencia may have agreed, there is no certainty that even Helmut Kohl, the pro-European German Chancellor, will be able to sell the single currency to his voters.

Theo Weigel, the German Finance Minister, who raised questions 10 days ago, was giving voice to mounting German fears about sinking the mark into a single currency. A German poll published before the Valencia meeting showed that 45 per cent of

Germans would vote against monetary union and only 31 per cent would support it. Any further hesitation from German leaders will send financial markets into new turmoil.

The issue of monetary union, in the European public mind, is inextricably linked with a wider debate about more political power-sharing for the EU, which comes to a head at next year's Inter-Governmental Conference. For now, governments appear confused and divided about Europe's political future. If these divisions are not resolved before next year's IGC, the confusion will only heighten public fear about monetary union.

In France there has been little public debate on the single currency as yet. However, President Jacques Chirac knows that if he is to act on the declarations of Valencia he must swiftly impose stringent measures to cut the budget deficit sufficiently to meet the *Emu* criteria. In the



Clarke: Reasserted Britain's right to exercise its opt-out

debate on political union, Mr Chirac is also under strong pressure to make unpopular concessions on French sovereignty. In the next few months, French support for *Emu* – and for Mr Chirac – may also ebb away.

Leading article, page 16

**Smart money is on the 'Euro'**

Valencia — They won't admit it yet, but Europe's single currency looks almost certain to be called "the Euro". The "Florin" is still a runner, and the "Franken" is a name favoured by some, writes Sarah Helm.

One idea was to use Euro as a prefix to existing national currency names, hence the Euro-pound or the Euro-mark. However, at Valencia there was informal consensus over lunch

that the Euro pure and simple represents the best solution.

Ministers dodged a final decision at the weekend for fear of sparking public debate, and the name will now be settled at the Madrid summit in December. Five criteria (the EU likes criteria) were agreed, however: that the currency should be given a name which is equally recognisable in every country. It should be simple to under-

stand, it should not give rise to any linguistic difficulty, it should have a strongly European flavour and the name should not give rise to any legal problems.

The name *Ecu*, envisaged by the Maastricht treaty, has now lost all favour. Germany in particular objected to the name, fearing it would become associated in the German public mind with Europe's weak basket currency.

STEVE CRAWSHAW  
Belgrade

Richard Holbrooke, the US peace envoy to Yugoslavia, sought yesterday to dampen speculation that peace in Bosnia could be around the corner. After talks with President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade, he emphasised that the distances to be bridged are still "very large".

Mr Holbrooke said that he had had a "very good talk", in the midst of "an intense phase of shuttle diplomacy". Nobody could describe that last phrase as an exaggeration: Mr Holbrooke flew from Sarajevo to Belgrade on Saturday, held talks with Mr Milosevic till midnight, then left yesterday morning for the Croatian capital, Zagreb. He is due back in Belgrade tomorrow.

Locals are impressed by his energy, if nothing else: the Belgrade weekly *Nm* devoted a column to explaining the history of *shuttle-diplomacy*, "an American speciality at times of great urgency". Earlier in the weekend, Mr Holbrooke had warned against "premature" talk of a ceasefire. He argued: "This isn't an express train, and never was."

To an extent, Mr Holbrooke's caution may stem from the desire to make the final moment – when he pulls the rabbits out of the hat – all the more dramatic. The cover headline in *Vreme* news magazine describes last week's deal, brokered by Mr Holbrooke, as "the New York Jajce" – a reference to the historic meeting which marked the founding of post-war Yugoslavia. *Vreme* speculated on a historic scene that would include the three presidents – Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, Franjo Tudjman of Croatia, and Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia – standing with President Bill Clinton on the White House lawn, to sign a peace plan. "This scene would have been unthinkable until now, but after the performance which Holbrooke directed in New York, it seems that we may see this movie soon."

There are, however, good reasons to take Mr Holbrooke's

caution at face value. Indeed, it may be understated. *Vreme* concluded: "It's a very different matter, how things will work out in practice. It is unclear whether these questions keep the Americans awake at night. To paraphrase Churchill: 'They won't have to live in Bosnia after the war.'"

Questions of territory, including the future of Sarajevo and the proposed corridor to



Holbrooke: Bosnia peace not just round the corner

the Muslim-held town of Gorazde, will be hard to settle. But these problems pale into insignificance by comparison with the long-term difficulties of sustaining a deal, however the borders are drawn.

The New York deal envisages a Bosnia consisting of two equal entities – the Muslim-Croat federation on the one hand, and the Republika Srpska on the other. Within the Muslim-Croat federation, however, the Croats now offer little loyalty to a Bosnian government and look almost entirely to Zagreb.

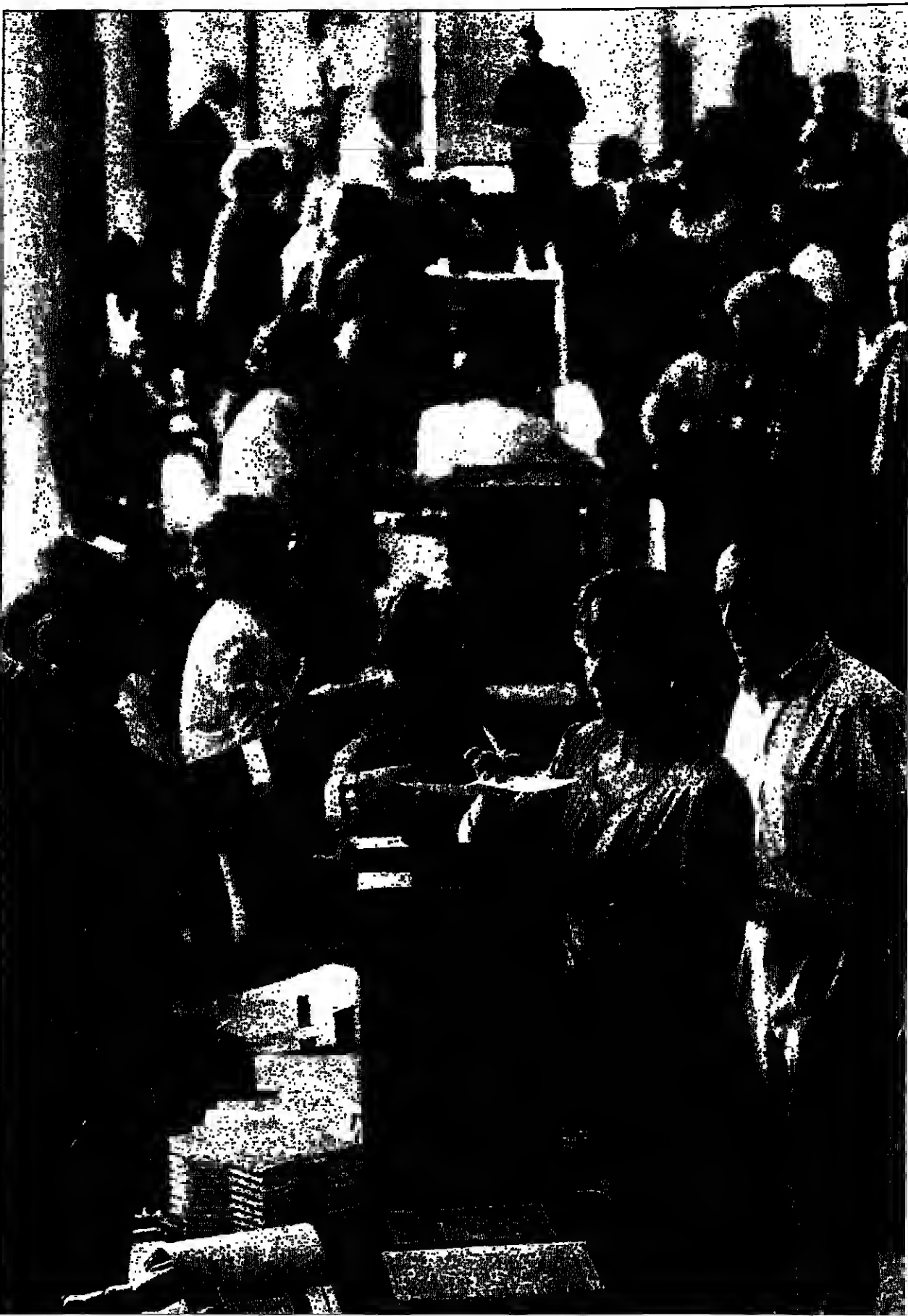
The Bosnian Croats have Croat currency, a Croat army, and the Croat flag. Mr Tudjman has never hidden his desire to carve up Bosnia; recently he

noted that Zagreb accepted the federation only "for strategic reasons". President Tudjman has talked too, in an interview with *Le Figaro*, of the need to "Europeanise Bosnian Muslims so that they can be integrated in European civilisation" – this from a man who allows fascists to run riot and who has given his blessing to "ethnic cleansing" in recent weeks. If the Croats do not sabotage their federation with the Muslims, it will be a miracle.

On the Serbian side, things look equally bleak. The very name of the Serbian part of Bosnia shows how bizarre things have become. There will be two adjoining republics: the Republika Srpska, or Serbian Republic (in Bosnia), and the Republika Srbija, or Republic of Serbia. Western journalists use the original Srpska title for Radovan Karadzic's fiefdom and the English word Serbia for Mr Milosevic's country in a desperate attempt to keep the reader unconfused. But the reality is that the two names are separated only by a frightening piece of syntax. It seems likely that the adjectival Srpska Republic will in due course seek to merge with the big-brother Srbija.

Vetoes are built into the New York deal to prevent such secession, which brings us back to where we were in spring 1992, before the war broke out. The Croat-Muslim majority, unwilling to let Bosnia come under the thumb of Mr Milosevic, voted for the independence of a multi-ethnic Bosnia, the well-armed Bosnian Serbs wanted to break away, to be with Serbia.

A few years ago, the incongruity of the present deal might not have mattered. "Bosnian" was a real concept for most Yugoslavs – as easy to grasp as "American", when talking about ethnic Italians, Irish or Poles. Bosnian Serbs were as conscious of their "Bosnian" identity as they were of their Serb identity. That is long gone. For the New York deal to work out, tolerance on all sides is needed. But the politicians – Milosevic, Karadzic, Tudjman – have destroyed the possibility of tolerance in the past three years.



Message in a box: Voters deposit their ballot papers in Lisbon yesterday

Photograph: Guilherme Venancio/AP

**Portugal calmly faces a new era**ELIZABETH NASH  
Lisbon

There was a whiff of change in the air as the Portuguese voted in general elections yesterday, even though the outcome is expected to remain in doubt until the last moment. Opinion polls, and the popular mood, suggest a tilt towards the moderate Socialist party, confident and ready to govern after 10 years in opposition.

But the ruling conservative Social Democrats have pulled out the stops in pursuit of a fourth term, and neither main party is expected to win an absolute majority. Both the Socialists, led by Antonio Guterres, and the Social Democrats, led by Fernando Nogueira, may lose votes to smaller parties on the left and right, respectively the Communist-led CDU coalition and the Popular Party. Either of those parties could win 10 to 12 per cent and exercise considerable leverage upon a hung parliament.

Adding to the uncertainty is the high number of floating voters, possibly as many as 27 per cent. But Portugal's young democracy seems unworried. The markets and financial institutions are calmly facing the prospect of minority rule or a change of government.

President Mario Soares, in his eve-of-poll message, urged his compatriots to exercise their "inalienable right and civic duty" to vote, adding soothingly that a party could serve the country "just as well in opposition as in government".

Portugal has known democratic stability for only 10 years. The 1974 "carnation revolution", which ended 50 years of dictatorship, ushered in a number of revolving-door governments until the Social Democrat Anibal Cavaco Silva became Prime Minister in 1985.

Even if the ruling Social Democrats should win, things will never be quite the same. Mr Cavaco stepped down as party leader in February in favour of his deputy, possibly with a view to the presidential contest early next year.

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**Metro ticket to a glorious past**

## BUDAPEST DAYS

After a gap of almost 100 years, the champagne corks have been popping again in the Budapest underground railway.

Last time around – in May 1896 – the cause for celebration was the opening of the first underground line in continental Europe, presided over by Emperor Franz Josef I of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

This time, late last month, the festivities were occasioned by the reopening of the line after a six-month closure for much-needed renovations and a facelift aimed at recreating some of the original *fin-de-siècle* grandeur.

Instead of an emperor, the city mayor, Gábor Demszky, led the procession of Budapest's great and good who boarded the first trains out of the revamped Vörösmarty Square station and marvelled at the bandwork: freshly tiled walls, hand-painted station signs and oak-panelled ticket booths. At the end of the line horse-drawn carriages were waiting to take the revellers on to another of the city's most famous turn-of-the-century establishments, the similarly restored Gundel's restaurant.

The primary purpose of the underground renovation work was to repair more than 40 years of Communist neglect. In the first flush of post-Communist freedom, the line had increasingly been targeted by vandals. The city authorities also deliberately set out to recreate some of the flair and feel of 99 years ago.

At the time of its original construction, the Budapest underground was the first on the continent (the first in Europe was in London), and its opening was one of the many events arranged in conjunction with the 1896 millennium celebrations, marking the 1,000th anniversary of the Hungarian settlement in central Europe.

It was a seemingly glorious moment in the country's history. Under the historic compromise reached with Austria just 29 years earlier, Hungary had a joint stake in a vast empire and itself ruled over millions of Croats, Serbs, Romanians and Slovaks. Economically and cul-

turally the country was flourishing, and nowhere more than Budapest, which was reaching the high point of an artistic and architectural boom.

In addition to the underground, the later years of the 19th century saw the building of boulevards of grand apartment blocks, an opera house, an extension of the city's castle and the neo-Gothic parliament: all of which continue to lend the city its elegance and charm.

By 1896, Budapest had risen from a nondescript town 140 miles east of Vienna to a European metropolis. There were still almost 20 years to go until the cataclysm of the First World War, which spelled the end of the Austro-Hungarian empire and saw Hungary itself being forced to cede some two-thirds of its territories.

Not surprisingly, there are many Hungarians who see the turn of the century as a golden era. Shortly after I arrived here my landlord thrust into my hands a map of Hungary in its

pre-1914 borders – just in case I was unaware of the tragedy that had befallen his nation. The equivalent in Britain – handing out maps to foreigners depicting the empire at its peak – would be virtually unthinkable.

For the ordinary Hungarian riding the millennium metro, thoughts of empire are very distant. Most people are preoccupied with scraping together an existence, and are just hoping that public expenditure cuts will not hit them. If there is a goal in these post-Communist days it is Brussels: twin seat of Nato and the European Union, the two institutions now seen as the panacea to many of the country's pressing problems.

The freshly-painted tiles and the pretty wooden panelling on the underground have certainly enhanced commuter travelling, and have been welcomed by the tens of thousands who see them each day. For most people here, however, the real hope is that, rather than serving as a reminder of an almost mythically glorious past, they might just be a signal of better times ahead.

ADRIAN BRIDGE

Nigerian  
'plotters'  
escape the  
ring squa

Britain wary  
but promise  
democracy



## Nigerian 'plotters' escape the firing squad

DAVID ORR  
Lagos

Sani Abacha, Nigeria's military ruler, yesterday said he would not allow the return of democracy in Africa's most populous nation for another three years.

The general, who seized power in the wake of an annulled presidential election two years ago, also said Chief Moshhood Abiola, the presumed winner, was not to be freed from prison, where he has been held for more than a year. However, the sentences on 40 alleged coup plotters are to be commuted in deference to appeals from the international community.

In a television broadcast to mark the 35th anniversary of Nigeria's independence, General Abacha laid out his plans for the transition to democracy. His Provisional Ruling Council (PRC) would step down in 1998, he said, after the holding of legislative and presidential elections. The remaining restrictions on party political activity are to be lifted this year.

The country is to be divided into six zones in the run-up to 1998. Six key offices, including President and Prime Minister, will thereafter be rotated among the zones over "an experimental period" of 30 years.

The treason charge facing

ty. The rest, including a former head of state, Olusegun Obasanjo, are understood to have been given life sentences.

"Abacha has defused the immediate crisis," a Western diplomat said yesterday. "The greatest pressure on him was to release the so-called coup plotters. People won't be very happy about Abiola, and they won't be pleased about the three-year transition period, but they won't be too surprised either."

In commuting the sentences Gen Abacha has indicated his desire to mend relations with the international community which have, of late, been particularly strained. Britain, the US and South Africa are among countries to have appealed for clemency for the political detainees and a speedy resumption of constitutional government.

In addition to calls for sanctions, there has been pressure for the exclusion of Nigeria from the Commonwealth when heads of government meet in New Zealand next month.

"Abacha probably feels he's done what he had to do for Nigerians and has gone far enough in accommodating international opinion," said another diplomatic source. "The news about the coup plotters is encouraging, as is the fact that a specific date for the handover has been given. But the length of the transition period is longer than anyone would have liked."

The introduction of a rotational system of government will go some way towards placating ethnic groups which see themselves as having been disenfranchised by a succession of governments from the north. The Hausa-Fulani of the Muslim north have dominated politics at the expense of the Yoruba in the south-west and the Ibo in the south-east, both largely Christian regions.

The continued detention of Chief Abiola, a Yoruba and a Muslim, will be particularly unpopular in the south, where he remains a rallying-point for opponents of the regime.

However, no unrest is expected from an opposition which has become deflated and dispirited in the face of constant repression.

"When Abacha took power nearly two years ago he said he would only be there for a brief period," said Gani Kawaihinmi, a lawyer who is the most outspoken opposition figure in Nigeria. "Again he's shown he's not a man to be trusted. His transition programme is a ruse to buy time. He has an intention of handing over power in three years."

Nigeria has been under rule by the military for more than 25 of the past 35 years. In that time a succession of army men have reneged on promises to return the country to democracy. Only Gen Obasanjo stood down voluntarily.



Abacha: Delaying return of democracy by three years

Chief Abiola, who declared himself president in defiance of the military, has not been lifted. Referring to the June 1993 election, which Chief Abiola is regarded as having won, Gen Abacha said: "We cannot make progress by flogging dead issues or by pretending that matters which have long since been overtaken by events should be exhumed and given fresh breath."

Acknowledging "the concerns of world leaders... who appealed to us to show clemency," he said those convicted of taking part in a coup plot earlier this year would have their sentences commuted. Fourteen alleged plotters are believed to have received the death penalty.

## Britain wary about promise of democracy

MICHAEL SHERIDAN  
Diplomatic Editor

Britain welcomed yesterday's announcement by Sani Abacha of clemency for the alleged coup plotters but there were doubts in the Foreign Office over the scale and speed of the Nigerian leader's promised transition to democracy.

The cautious British reaction indicated that those Commonwealth member-nations which favour a harder line towards the military junta are unlikely to find General Abacha's promises acceptable. There must still be a question-mark over his participation in the Commonwealth summit next month and some members at the meeting will press for sanctions against Nigeria.

"We welcome the exercise of clemency," a Foreign Office spokeswoman said yesterday, "but we remain concerned that long prison sentences have been imposed after secret trials." British officials were examining the timetable which Gen Abacha had laid out for a return to civilian rule in three years' time, but it was unclear if it would be enough to persuade the international community not to take further action.

"We regret the lack of commitment to an early handover to civilian democratic rule."

the Foreign Office said, adding that an end to military government was necessary both for Nigeria to make progress and for good relations with Britain. It appeared that British officials, who have conducted a prolonged dialogue with the Nigerian regime, were disappointed by the few concessions made in Gen Abacha's announcement.

The Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, is expected to discuss Nigeria at a meeting of European Union foreign ministers in Luxembourg today which could produce a common stance on Nigeria, although Britain will probably do its best to resist an early imposition of sanctions because of substantial British economic interests, especially in the oil sector.

Tony Lloyd, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, urged the government to take immediate action to increase pressure on the junta, calling Gen Abacha's statement "a package of false compromises and false promises". Incremental oil sanctions should be imposed on Nigeria: these would cut its revenues and intensify dissatisfaction with the regime. Such drastic sanctions would also make it impossible for Gen Abacha to undertake the regeneration of the economy, which he has said is needed before democracy can be restored.



Ready for change: A civilian crowd in Comoros shouting support for the coup

Photograph: Corinne Dufka/Reuters

## Captain takes over Comoros

TOM COHEN  
Associated Press

Moroni — A military officer in jail until three days ago announced himself leader of the island territory of the Comoros yesterday.

Captain Combo Ayoubu, imprisoned after a failed 1992 coup attempt, said in an interview on the terrace of the presidential palace that he had plotted last Thursday's seizure of power, led by a French mercenary, Bob Denard, from jail.

Moroni, the capital, was calm yesterday. Children swam in the ocean despite a rainstorm, and a few rebel soldiers guarded key installations, such as the radio station, site of the only serious clash of the coup.

Mr Denard and more than a dozen other foreign mercenaries involved in the coup had finished their job and would play no role in the new government, Captain Ayoubu said.

He suggested most of the mercenaries would be asked to leave, but said Mr Denard, 66, was a Comorian citizen entitled to live in the country. Captain Ayoubu is a long-time associate of Mr Denard, who has led previous coups in the Comoros and elsewhere in Africa. The captain

heads a "Military Transition Committee" that accuses the ousted president, Said Mohamed Djohar, of corruption and acting against the constitution. He said Mr Djohar was unhurt but in custody, and would probably stand trial.

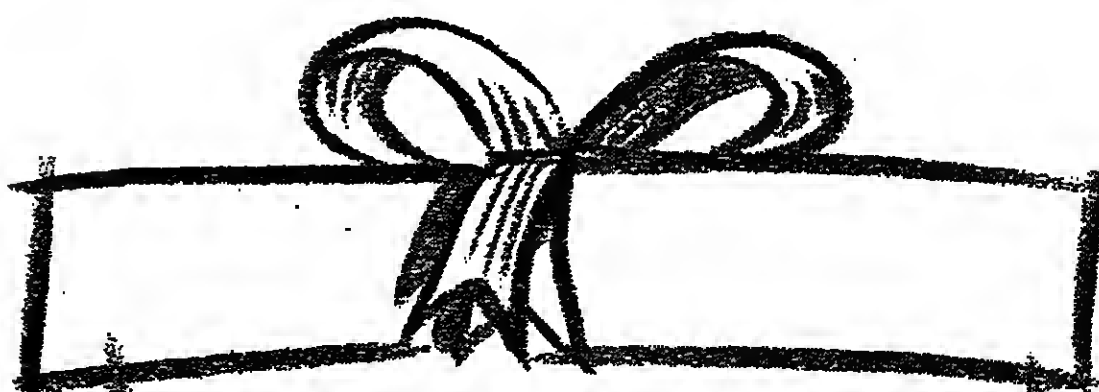
"We are going to change this country," said the bearded Captain Ayoubu, 42. "We got support from the army for a quick change."

His ruling committee has promised to consult all political parties in setting up an interim leadership that would hold national elections. No date has been proposed for the talks.

On Saturday the overthrown government and an opposition party pleaded for international help in driving out the mercenaries.

France, the former colonial power, has so far refused to intervene militarily, although it has put its 4,000 troops in the region on full alert, and French navy ships carrying landing craft are on the high seas. The overthrown prime minister, Cassimbi el Yashourou, called from his refuge in the French embassy for France to take action. France has cut aid to the Comoros, and has called for a return to constitutional order.

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Estimated On-The-Road Price <sup>(2)</sup>	£9,215	£12,600	£13,790
Deposit (0%)	20%	20%	20%
Deposit (£)	£1,843	£2,520	£2,758
Balance	£7,372	£10,080	£11,032
Total Charges for Credit <sup>(3)</sup>	£1,755.18	£2,393.95	£2,599.68
Total Credit Price	£10,970.18	£14,993.95	£16,389.68
Term (months)	25	25	25
Number of Monthly Payments	24	24	24
Monthly Payments	£216.57	£292.55	£323.97
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## international

## Exiles appeal to Mubarak

KHALED DAWOUD  
Reuters

Salloum, Egypt — Palestinians ordered out of Libya and forcibly encamped on the border with Egypt appealed to President Hosni Mubarak yesterday to help them to go home.

Khaled Abou el-Nil and Sami el-Maghrabi, acting on behalf of about 200 of their stranded compatriots, handed the written appeal to Egyptian state security officers through the barbed wire fence which marks the desert border. They said the people in the camp were also planning a demonstration to highlight their request to go in the self-rule areas of Gaza and the West Bank.

"We are appealing to the world to find a just solution to our problem," said Mr Abou el-Nil, a merchant who arrived at the makeshift camp.

"Where can we go? Maybe the best solution is for the world to dig us a hole and bury us in it."

The Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi, who calls the

PLO-Israeli peace deal a capitulation to the Jewish state, has ordered the expulsions of some 6,000 Palestinians over the past three months in protest.

Since Thursday, when Israel and the Palestinians signed a deal expanding Palestinian self-rule to much of the West Bank, expulsions have accelerated.

The rubbish-strewn camp, hemmed in by barbed wire and Libyan security officials, was set up on Libyan soil to shelter the deportees. Three of the 100 tents have been made into a hospital, a school and a mosque.

Mr Maghrabi said the Libyans were setting up more military tents for the hundreds expected to arrive at the scorpion-infested site in the coming days. Groups stuck at the border last month said they were reduced to begging for food from travellers. Water is also scarce.

Egypt is reluctant to accept expelled Palestinians unless they have travel papers for Jordan, Gaza or the West Bank. Other Arab countries adopt a similar policy.



Troubled water: Police scuffle with Jewish protesters against the West Bank deal at Allenby Bridge over the Jordan

Photograph: Jim Hollander/Reuters

## Dig could unleash unholy Hebron row

PATRICK COCKBURN  
Jerusalem

An Israeli archaeologist, Tuvia Segev, wants to dig up the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron to prove that Abraham is not buried there, thus defusing the conflict between Muslims and Jews over a place holy to both.

Mr Segev believes the prophet probably lies in another part of Hebron, which he also wants to excavate.

No shrine on the West Bank has produced greater passions than the Tomb of the Patriarchs. The 400 militant Jews who have settled in the heart of Hebron, surrounded by 120,000 Palestinians, have done so largely to be close to where they believe Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lie buried with their wives. Last year Baruch Goldstein, an Israeli settler, killed 29 Muslims as they prayed in the Ibrahim mosque, which stands over the reputed tombs.

The medieval mosque rests

on vast blocks of stone which survive from the masonry platform built by Herod the Great.

Mr Segev says that in fact Herod built on an old Edomite or Nabatean prayer site, and if Abraham and his family are buried anywhere, it is at Tel Rumeida, in another part of Hebron.

Abraham is said in the Book of Genesis to have bought the Cave of Makhpela to bury his wife Sarah and to serve as a sepulchre for her family. There is a blocked medieval doorway to the cave in the mosque, but archaeologists who have entered it say it is a series of rooms rather than a natural formation.

Israel Finkelstein, professor of archaeology at Tel Aviv University, says that the problem is that "nobody quite knows when the patriarchs lived or what archaeological evidence to look for". He says it is not known why Herod built there, though he is dismissive of Mr Segev's idea that evidence of the presence of the patriarchs might be found at Tel Rumeida.

Mr Segev says that he has interested Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, in an excavation at the Tomb of the Patriarchs, but it is unlikely Israeli government and private, probably reflected the public mood by not interrupting its programmes to show Mr Rahin's press conference immediately after agreement was first reached in Taba, Egypt.

Rumeida is occupied by another Jewish settlement.

The 400-page agreement on partial Israeli disengagement from the West Bank signed by Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, is meant to reduce all sources of friction, including the two communities' access to the Tomb of the Patriarchs. But the mood of ordinary Israelis has been muted and a little cynical, unlike the optimism after the first Washington agreement in 1993. The experience of the past two years shows that the friction in places like Hebron is not ending, and will still produce violence.

Israelis are evenly divided by the peace agreement, polls showing 51 per cent in favour and 47 per cent against. Most say they distrust Mr Arafat, but a majority want to go on talking to him. They do not like the release of 1,300 Palestinian prisoners over the next few days, but they do not identify with the settlers either. "The fact is that the general public has long since in practice separated itself from the West Bank — it doesn't go there for touring or shopping," says Yoel Marcus, a commentator on *Ha'aretz* newspaper.

IN BRIEF

## French clamp down on nuclear protesters

Papeete — France is clamping down on anti-nuclear and independence activists before its second nuclear test in the South Pacific, detaining Tahitians daily and using television footage of riots to make arrests. Stanley Cross, lawyer for Tavini Huiraatira Party (Liberation Front of French Polynesia), the territory's largest independence party, said about 50 people had been arrested in connection with rioting after France resumed testing at Mururoa atoll on 5 September.

France seized Greenpeace's 120ft *Maratea*, the group's last remaining protest vessel, in international waters yesterday. The head of Greenpeace Japan, Sanae Shida, was deported from French Polynesia on Saturday after she and three others raided the secondary nuclear test site on Fangatua atoll on Thursday. A New Zealander, Hank Haazen, was also deported.

## Resignation piles poll pressure on Ciller

Ankara — The Turkish Prime Minister, Tansu Ciller (right), faced added pressure for early elections with the resignation of the speaker of parliament. Husamettin Cuduruk, a member of Mrs Ciller's centre-right True Path Party but a long-time adversary, said that elections should be held every four years, rather than five as under the present constitution. General elections are now scheduled for next autumn. Mrs Ciller's coalition collapsed on 20 September and her party has been unable to find a new coalition partner.



## Bomb accomplices face investigation

Paris — A French magistrate opened an inquiry yesterday into two alleged accomplices of Khaled Kelkal, 24, an Algerian-born man shot dead by police who was suspected of involvement in a wave of bomb attacks in France, judicial sources said. Abdelkader Mazamert, 25, and Abdelkader Bouhadjar, 28, also of Algerian origin, were formally placed under investigation for criminal conspiracy with a terrorist activity and jailed.

## Victims of revolution beatified

Vatican City — Pope John Paul beatified 64 martyrs from the French Revolution, as well as 45 priests, nuns and faithful killed in the Spanish civil war. Almost 7,000 Catholic priests, monks and nuns were killed during the 1936-39 war by forces opposed to General Francisco Franco.

## Fundamentalists kill 18 on Algerian bus

Algiers — Islamic militants killed 18 people and injured 15, mostly children, in an attack on a bus near Laghouat, 200 miles south of Algiers, Algerian security forces said. Police said that they killed four members of the group as they made their retreat.

## Thai crocodiles get carried away

Bangkok — About 300 crocodiles have fled their farms and remain at large in Thailand, where a bounty of 3,000 baht (£75) has been offered for each one captured, a Thai-language daily said yesterday. The crocodiles were carried away by flood waters from private farms north of Bangkok.

## Thyroid Problems?

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# NY court convicts terror plot Muslims

DAVID USBORNE  
New York

The most sweeping terrorism trial in American history concluded in New York yesterday with guilty verdicts against 10 Muslim militants who had been accused of plotting to blow up buildings, bridges and tunnels, undermine the government and assassinate the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak.

After 37 hours of deliberation at the end of a trial that had already lasted nine months, the jury in the New York court delivered the verdicts late yesterday morning, vindicating prosecutors who had said that the 10 had come close to unleashing a "war of urban terrorism" on Manhattan, designed to persuade the US government to change its policy in the Middle East.

The leader of the group was Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, a blind, 57-year-old Islamic cleric who first came to the US and the New York area in 1980. He was found guilty on five different counts of attempted terrorism, including solicitation to murder President Mubarak.

Also among the defendants was El Sayyid Nosair, a soldier of the Islamic Jihad movement who was separately found guilty of involvement in the 1990 assassination in New York of the extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane. Nosair had been acquitted of the murder in 1991, but jailed for related weapons charges.

At the heart of the trial, however, were the allegations that all eight other defendants had, with the encouragement of Sheikh Rahman, engaged in an elaborate plot to bomb a series of New York buildings and

landmarks. According to prosecutors, five bombs were to be detonated in just 10 minutes, destroying two tunnels leading into Manhattan, the George Washington Bridge and the United Nations headquarters.

FBI videos submitted as evidence showed the men mixing bomb-making materials in a New York garage. The defence said the eight believed that the bombs would be used to aid the Muslim side in Bosnia.

The government believes that Sheikh Rahman and Nosair were sent to the United States as part of a wider campaign, led by Islamic Jihad, to destabilise the US government and weaken its friendly ties with Israel and Egypt. The bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993 was believed to have been part of the campaign.

The World Trade Center attack, which left six dead, was repeatedly evoked by the prosecution during the trial, although no specific evidence linking the ten to it was offered. Four men were jailed for the bombing of the twin towers in a separate trial last year.

The government will celebrate yesterday's convictions, which it hopes will mark the crumbling of the threat by Islamic fundamentalists in New York. The authorities will feel more comfortable having the ten behind bars during the UN 50th anniversary celebrations later this month, when the heads of government of nearly 150 nations will cram into the UN complex.

The defence lawyer for Sheikh Rahman, Lynne Stewart, cried in court yesterday. "He is not the first person to go to prison for his beliefs, and he won't be the last," she said.

## Decision time for OJ jury

EDWARD HELMORE  
Los Angeles

After nine months of evidence and the final, wrenching appeal by the prosecution to convict, the jurors in the murder trial of OJ Simpson will today start the unenviable task of reaching a verdict.

Whatever their decision - to convict, acquit or agree to disagree and return as a hung jury - they have a huge burden to carry and a vast amount of evidence to sift through.

Maintaining the routine they have followed since their sequestration began in January, the jury will be driven to the courthouse from their hotel every morning and return at night. Until they reach their verdict, they will deliberate six days a week in a small room.

The nine women and three men, one of whom are black, two white and one Hispanic, hold the responsibility for Mr Simpson's fate, and the social unrest that could result from a guilty verdict.

Last week, as the two sides presented their closing arguments, analysts' predictions shifted between verdicts. Will ju-

rors be seduced by the defence's plea to acquit? The kernel of the defence argument is that the police framed him and that the jury should now send a message about the racial divisions in Los Angeles, and by association America. That is fraught with difficulties.

Last month Judge Lance Ito stopped Detective Mark Fuhrman's boasts of fabricating evidence from reaching the jury. In making that ruling the judge found there was no evidence to support the defence contention that Mr Simpson was framed.

Besides the uncertain motive of racism, why would the police want to frame him? Mr Simpson had entertained police officers at his house and even hired off-duty policemen to protect him. The idea that a force which made such a sloppy job of collecting evidence could stage an elaborate operation to frame him is far-fetched.

For Mr Simpson this waiting will mean more time in his 9ft by 7ft cell. The cell is equipped with some of the benefits of celebrity - an incoming-only telephone, an exercise bicycle and his own television set. Racial politics, page 17

## Helms does deal to lift freeze on embassy posts

RUPERT CORNWELL  
Washington

Jesse Helms, the cantankerous North Carolina Republican who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has struck a deal with the White House to end the virtual freeze he imposed on State Department business on Capitol Hill, which left 15 per cent of US embassies without ambassadors.

Under the compromise, Senate Democrats and Republicans have agreed to produce legislation to reorganise the US foreign-policy bureaucracy. This would replace Mr Helms's measure, merging the agencies responsible for foreign aid, information and disarmament, and placing them under the control of the State Department. This, says Mr Helms, would save \$3bn (£1.9bn) a year.

The administration ignored the proposal. Mr Helms retaliated by effectively shutting down his committee. More than 30 ambassadorial nominees were left dangling in mid-air, including the former Tennessee Senator Jim Sasser, appointed

Jesse Helms: halted State Department business

to Peking. About 400 internal promotions have been held up. Major arms treaties, including Salt II, have gone unratified.

The breakthrough is not the end of the problem for Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, as he tries to stave off a near 25-per-cent cut in the State Department budget next year.

The cuts, saving only \$800m, would come the less cost scores of jobs at home, as well as 50 diplomatic posts abroad.



Wallace: 'I was wrong about civil rights ... Now segregation's gone - good riddance'

## Old segregationist sees the light from the right

His brown hair is grey now, but is still slicked back in movie-gangster style. The eyebrows remain bushy, looming over the piercing dark eyes that tried, in 1963, to stare down the US government. And his pinched lips can still break into a snarl, as they did when he proclaimed: "Segregation today! Segregation tomorrow! Segregation for ever!"

But George Wallace, 75, the Alabama governor who stood "in the schoolhouse door" over 30 years ago to try to prevent two black students from entering the state university, appears much different today. He has been in a wheelchair since 1972, paralysed in an assassination attempt during the second of his three presidential campaigns. He has Parkinson's disease, his eyesight is poor, and he can barely hear or speak.

But inside the broken body is a new man, freed by fate from his hard-right chrysalis, a man at peace with himself and the world. Mr Wallace, a born-again Christian since he was shot, recently talked of race and redemption with John F Kennedy Jr, son of John and nephew of Robert Kennedy, the President and Attorney-General who

**Missing Persons**  
No. 35  
**George Wallace**

clashed with the Alabama Democrat and won.

"I was right about some of the issues I talked about," he said in the inaugural issue of *George*, Mr Kennedy's new magazine. "But I was wrong about civil rights. The things I was saying back in 1968" - when, as an independent presidential candidate he won 13 per cent of the vote - "were the things that people wanted to hear. And the people still want to hear those things today."

Was he ahead of his time? Mr Wallace's calls for law and order and advocacy of states' rights strike a chord today. Many consider him the spiritual father of the Republicans' "Contract With America". He expects Bob Dole to win the Republican nomination and to carry the South. He is co-fan of Bill Clinton: "I'd tell him ... not to put gays in the military and

to stop being for abortion". Colin Powell is "a very fine man" and Jesse Jackson is "a good friend". But no, he does not expect to see a black president in the time left to him.

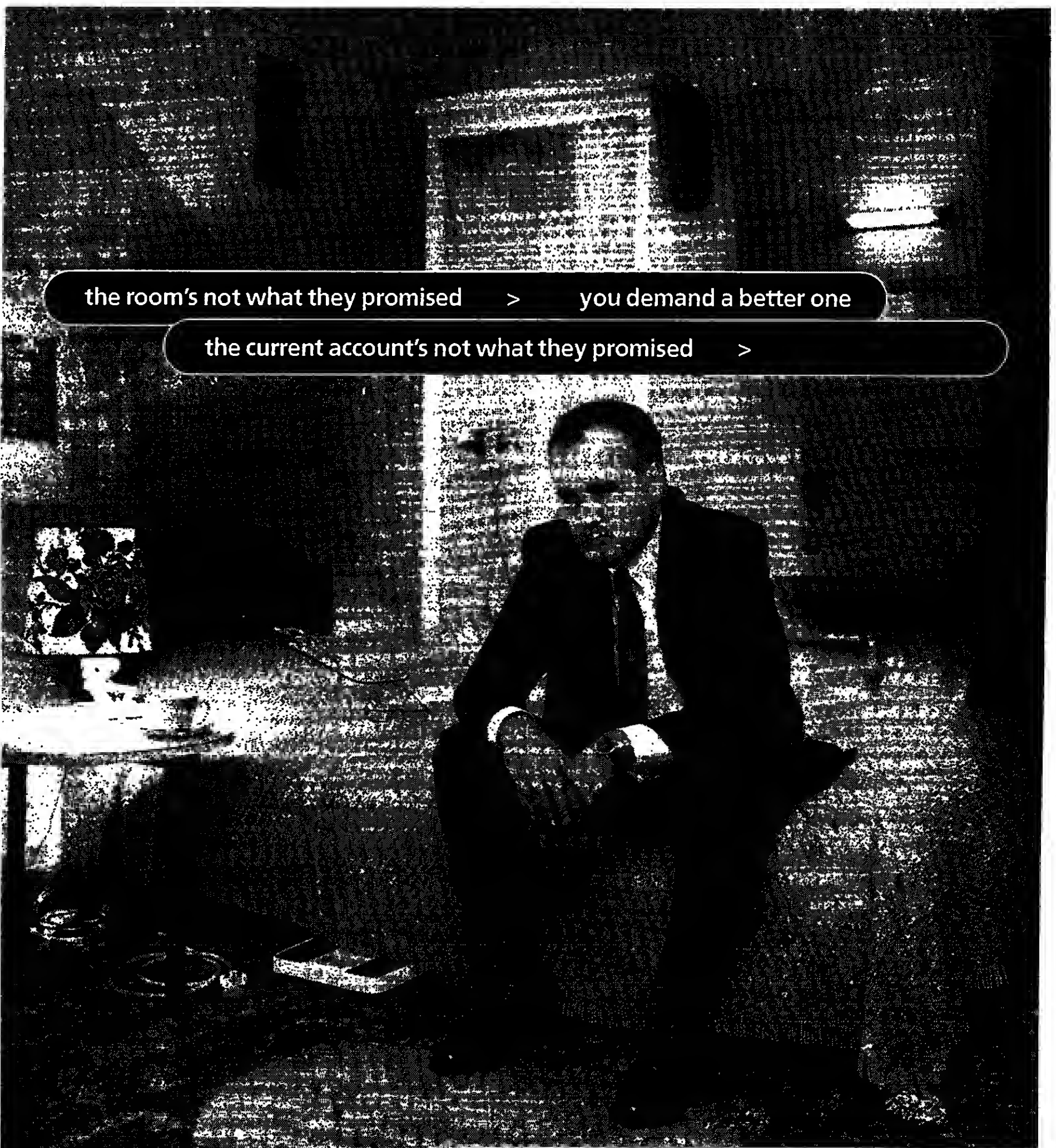
"People have always equated segregation with hatred," Mr Wallace said. "But that's not true. We were all taught that segregation was in the best interest of the people ... I'm not a different man. I didn't hate blacks 30 years ago, and I don't hate blacks today."

Nor, he said, did his politics change after he was born again. "I was taught that segregation was best for both races. But then, a few years ago, I decided it wasn't ... My conscience said it was wrong. Wrong, wrong, wrong ... And now segregation's gone. Good riddance."

If he had his life to live over, Mr Wallace said, "I wouldn't have sinned as much as I did." Was he prepared to die? "I'm not afraid of death like I used to be, because ... I'll be forgiven my sins."

"What are your sins?" Mr Kennedy asked. "I tell my sins to God, not to people like you," the old devil snarled.

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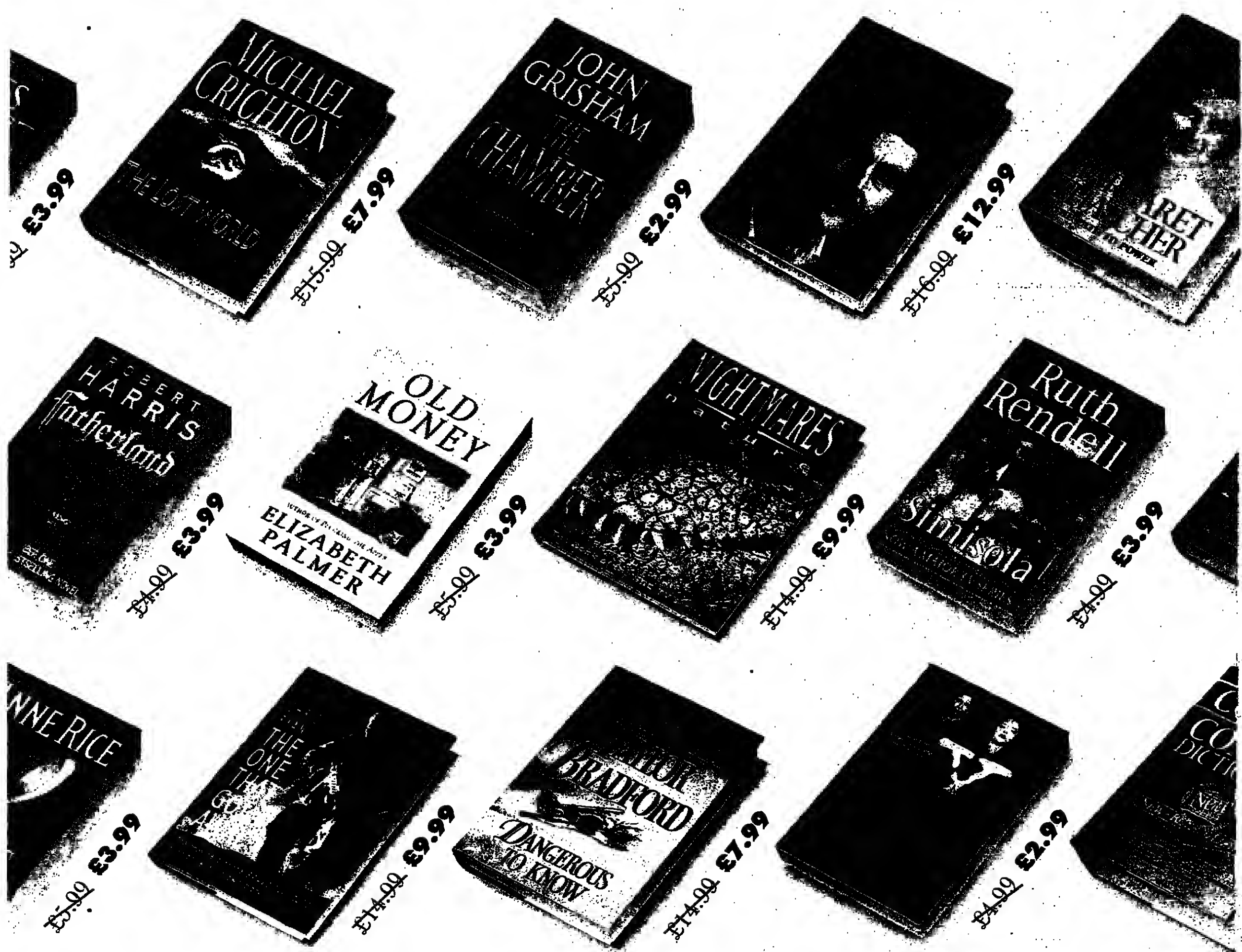
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# They like Blair's style – but not his vision

As Labour gathers in Brighton, James Cusick and John Rentoul find the party's recruits are New Pragmatists who put victory before ideals

For the first time, Labour is now a larger party than the Conservatives, according to some academic estimates. The influx of new recruits has been claimed by Tony Blair as a massive endorsement of his "New Labour". As membership has leaped by 100,000 to 350,000 in the 15 months since Blair became leader, he can fairly boast to have confounded the fashionable cynics who told him the days of mass political parties were over: something dramatic is clearly happening.

Until now no one has known what sort of people they are, why they joined the party and whether they are different from the existing membership. Is their vision Blair's vision? Will they go along with him in government or will they be impatient for radical change? In his speech to last year's conference, Blair himself joked: "I hear some of you support me just because you think I can win."

Evidence gathered by the Independent suggests he was right. The new recruits are the "New Pragmatists" – their views are more old Labour than new, but they support Blair because they think he will beat the hated Tories. And, because their expectations of him are limited to victory and they understand he is different from them, he may even have an easier ride in government than any of his predecessors.

The only substantial academic survey of Labour members is now seriously out of date. Patrick Seyd and Paul Whiteley of Sheffield University interviewed 5,000 Labour members in 1989-90. They had more left-wing attitudes than the leadership on nationalisation, defence and education. But there was evidence of pragmatism even then: 57 per cent agreed that Labour "should adjust its policies to capture the middle ground of politics". Mr Seyd says the new members interviewed in a follow-up study in mid-1992 were "more supportive of electoral reform, but were not much out of line with existing members in their general attitudes". Now he admits it is "tantalisingly frustrating" not to know who the Blair recruits are and what they think. "Mr Blair obviously thinks they are malleable credit-card payers, whereas the left think they are crypto-SDP-ers. We simply don't know," he says.

In March this year, the Labour Party carried out its

own survey of about 1 per cent of those who joined in the previous year. It was a self-selected sample who filled in a questionnaire in *Labour Party News*, and told little about their views – merely that 60 per cent were men, 47 per cent were in "professional" jobs and only 29 per cent were under 35. In other words, much like existing members, only more middle-class and a bit younger.

In order to find out more, the Independent's own mini-survey spoke to a random sample of 50 people who have joined in the past year – it provides the first important clues to the identity of the New Pragmatists. Because Labour holds its conference today in a model constituency of the "new" party, we chose the Brighton Pavilion Labour Party for our survey. Membership here has risen from 900 to 1,400 since Blair was elected leader. Like the party's survey, our sample were not particularly young. Only five were students, despite a large student population in Brighton, and many were retired – joining because they now had "time on their hands".

The first truth to establish about the new members is that they are not an uncritical Tony Blair fan club. Revulsion from the Conservatives is a more powerful force than the attraction to Blair – although he is important because he both articulates that revulsion and inspires confidence that the Tories can be beaten. They are not uniformly convinced that every change and every silence is needed, yet they sense they are on a winning side.

Carlie McBride, 18, is a young New Pragmatist. Joining while still studying for her A-levels, she was inspired by one of Blair's speeches, although Blair did not deliver it. "It was at the Theatre Royal in Brighton with Sir Ian McKellen quoting from a speech Blair had given on the age of consent. It just struck a chord."

On Blair himself she is not completely convinced. "I've mixed views. I don't like everything he's saying, like he's not going to renationalise – I don't see why we should go along with that." She does not trust Blair 100 per cent, but she trusts him to "pull votes from disenchanted Tories".

McBride won an assisted place to Brighton and Hove High School, a private girls' school. From a "council estate,



socialist background", the intervening years appear to have taught her "the Tories are still the party of the money-people. You vote Tory if their policies haven't touched you. If you haven't used the public health, education, transport services you don't miss them." Blair is not her favourite: "I like John Prescott, but he wouldn't win."

In the small Baker Street offices of Brighton Pavilion

Britain's 22nd most marginal. The 8 per cent winning margin between Tory and Labour in the 1992 general election has been reduced even further with a boundary change that brings in a rock-solid Labour ward. Day's confidence is increasing: "It encourages you to know that 10 people are joining the party every week."

They are joining, however, in the belief that the Labour Party

to him" to "disgusting", 24 of our group responded unfavourably, 19 were neutral and only five positively supported Blair's decision.

When it comes to political strategy, the new members are strikingly flexible and deferential. Some were quite happy to change the name of the party to New Labour if Blair thought it would help win the election. Only eight actually preferred to

polity at London University, is another New Pragmatist: "Blair displays an ambiguity between needing to win power and his responsibility to the left to win votes. But he's pragmatic, a good figure at the right time." Whitehead, a member for 18 months, believes "not all promises will be delivered". But he thinks "Blair will do his best".

Guy Radcliffe, 41, a house renovator, joined because he felt "I could no longer comment without taking part". Radcliffe, who joined in May after three years abroad, came home to discover "an impressive man leading the Labour Party who worries me a little".

Feeling that Labour lacks well defined policies, wanting radical constitutional change and strong links with the trade unions, are not enough to put Radcliffe off Blair: "This man can win over disenchanted Tories. Sure, he will scare those who think he is too far to the right, but where these people will go I have no idea."

What Blair has done for recruitment is to change his party's losing image. On the doorsteps in Brighton, from students' residences, council estates, private-sector rented flats to up-market Regency and Georgian homes, Labour is

seen as a potential winner. Much of the growth in membership is the product of high polling ratings and high morale. It is easier to persuade people to join a winning organisation. This is reflected in the return of lapsed members, and in the markedly higher retention rates among existing members. Keith Day says in the past about 25 per cent of the membership would lapse every year. Last year it was 5 per cent.

The Blair Effect is indirect, in that he does not necessarily inspire people to join the Labour Party but, because they think he is going to win the next election, the party has become worth joining – and not just in the short term. The new members are not merely fair-weather recruits.

It is even possible that the new recruits are more likely to stand by Blair through the inevitable disappointments of office. Ruby Besch, who finally joined the party, aged 74, says Blair "seemed the person to get rid of this dreadful government – but while I'm optimistic, there will be problems. The finances may not be available. It is going to be difficult to turn things around."

Additional reporting by Natasha Roffe.

Setting the stage for new Labour in Brighton: local people joining the party still aspire to traditional socialist values

Photograph: John Voos

What Brighton's new members think about.

**Tony Blair:** "I would stand with pants on my head in the middle of the town square if he thought it would make a difference." *Paul Duffy*

**Tony Blair's decision to send his son to an independent school:** "As a teacher I thought it was the decision of a wimp." *Caroline Driver*

**On the rejection of Liz Davies:**

"If you want to be part of a party, co-operation is essential. The party needs to have a certain identity which will make it electable – it would do the party no favours to have another Michael Foot." *Jean Taylor*

"She is being totally marginalised – it is disgusting. They should have room for all types of opinion, it should be a broad church. The party has become like the left faction of the Tory party." *Mary Tomlinson*

**On the union block vote:** "There should be further reductions – not a complete abandonment of union ideals. But certainly not the old constant stream of Seventies leaders screaming and shouting." *Paul Duffy*

**On the new Clause IV:** "I was against it, but, with hindsight, it is a good thing." *Anna Pearson*

**On "New Labour":** "Labour is a political party, not a washing-up gimmick. You don't buy it for the quality of its fabric conditioner." *Ted Powers*

"Britain's culture has changed – it is far more individualistic, the community is far less important. People are yearning for something more – even people who are earning a lot are still hungry for something more – that void could be filled by Labour." *Graham Anderson*

## For Labour joiners, high tax and high spending is still at the core of what the Labour Party is

Labour Party, a large "Operation Victory" poster greets all who enter. But pride of place, among more modest messages such as "Socialistes Européens pour les femmes de l'Europe", is Labour's "New we can win the Peace" poster from 1945. The wartime Labour recalls Winston Churchill's observation that politics is as exciting as war and quite as dangerous, and according to full-time organiser Keith Day the new recruits are anxious for the real battle to commence.

"Operation Victory" for them is clear: the seat, held by Conservative Sir Derek Spencer, the Solicitor General, is

stands for things which Blair has tried to make clear that it no longer does. 45 of the 50 said they wanted "higher public spending, paid for by higher taxes on the better-off". Blair and Shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown have reiterated their objective of getting the tax burden down. But for Labour joiners – as for most of the electorate – high tax and high spending are still at the core of what the Labour Party is.

Education also touches core values. Asked about Blair's decision to send his son to a grant-maintained school, "disappointed" was the middle response in a range from "it's up

call themselves New Labour – 33 opted for "Labour", three for "Old Labour" and three for "Socialist". "I would be prepared to change the name to New Labour if that would help further their political ascendancy," said Maureen Green, a sympathiser for 40 years.

As for Liz Davies, the rejected candidate for Leeds North-East, if Blair wanted her out, that was good enough for them. Although only 16 felt they knew enough about her to have an opinion, they divided 12-4 in favour of the National Executive's decision.

Dr James Whitehead, 33, a research fellow in social anthro-

## Diary

RUTH DUDLEY EDWARDS

Normally in Dublin I stay with convivial friends, but on Friday I was being a judge of the Irish Times literary competition and thought the wise move was to stay in the posh hotel room and keep well out of temptation's way. Unfortunately for my health, as judges and hosts left the restaurant mid-midnight, and I said idly (as I tend to do) "We really should go to a nightclub." I found a couple of volunteers. "Take us to a club with music for wrinkles." I cried gaily to the taxi driver. "Rock and roll and so on."

So he did, and it was very jolly, and I danced a lot, and we went round St Stephen's Green in a horse-drawn carriage in the small hours and I was still enjoying myself at 4am sitting in the hotel lobby having an impassioned argument with two fellow judges about the merits of one of the shortlisted poets. I bet the Booker judges didn't have half as much fun.

From Dublin airport I rang Una, a

stalwart of this column, who related a story she had heard told on Irish radio by the singer Finbar Furey. She said to tell you to read it aloud slowly, and bear in mind that Chap B was a Cockney and they have trouble with their tee hatches.

On a plane, Furey overheard one of his entourage, A, who was engaged in writing a postcard, asking: "How do you spell 'wattle'?"

"What do you want to write 'wattle' for?"

"Because I have to tell the wife to have six T-shirts ready wattle fit me."

"You don't have to write 'wattle'."

Observed B reprovingly. "What you should say is 'dattle'."



PD James: misunderstood

Were I the worrying type, I'd have been alarmed that it was in the *Independent* that the story broke of a brawl in the Crime Writers' Association between what are known as the cosy and hard-boiled schools, for I am a member of the CWA committee and therefore a likely mole. Fortunately, because of the nature of their occupation, my colleagues instantly realised that since I was the obvious suspect, I must be innocent.

Some of you will remember that the row began because in the dead of night Chaz Brandleigh overheard the Baroness (PD) James telling the World Service that "in the pits of the worst possible inner-city area... you don't get moral choice". Chaz wrote to our organ, *Red Herring*, to protest, and sparked off a controversy that in a couple of weeks had secured more publicity for crime writing than it normally attracts in a year. One highlight was the declaration by Mark Thimlin, a prominent member of what Tim Heald has christened the "arriving yobbo" tendency and a hard-boiled writer whose hero apparently spends much of his time throwing up in public conveniences, that rather than a member of our organisation Chaz Brandleigh was in his eyes Lady James' misunderstood victim of a misunderstanding. Although I'm a member of the cosy-perpetrator myself, I would rather do almost anything to the whole world than stick needles

in my eyes, unlike Tony Blair I believe in a broad church, so I am rushing to the defence of Chaz on the charge of being the sort of chap who rushes around roughing up respectable matrons. Admittedly the thrillers are as violent I won't even read the blurbs, and Chaz looks and dresses like something you wouldn't want to meet in a shopping precinct in broad daylight, let alone in a dark alley, but he is really a bee-lamb.

We became pally a few years ago at a crime convention in Toronto when my friend Priscilla and I discovered him one morning quivering with fear because he was to appear on a panel with what he expected to be a coven of rabid feminists. We got maternal, brought him champagne and gave him helpful advice like: "Get a grip, lad, and don't be such a wimp." It is time the ladies stopped handbagging him: "Sorry," his teddy and constant companion since he was three, is getting very upset.



Big trouble with trains

A contribution to the Great Conversation of our Time department comes from my friend Bert, who made the mistake of ringing railway inquiries in Newcastle to ask for train times from Darlington to Brighton. Having been asked what time train he wanted to travel on, he explained that he wouldn't know that until he knew what time the trains left Darlington. His interlocutor

responded that she couldn't tell him any train times until she knew on which train he wanted to travel.

"I explained to her that my reason for ringing train timetable inquiries was to find out what time the trains ran. This did not help. She insisted that she could not tell me the time of the train until I told her the time of the train that I wanted to travel on. So I made a guess and said 'mid-morning'."

"What time is mid-morning?" she asked.

"Ten o'clock," I said.

"The 10 o'clock leaves Darlington at 9.58," she replied.

"Is it me?"

Several of you are bleating about the low quality of some limericks and the need to move on to a new verse form: John Parkes even sent me *The Lure of the Limerick* in the hope that it would act as aversion therapy, so I'm trying to break away.

However, having won my heart with "Dear Ruth, may I please come and play in your gang?" Pat Gould ensured I'd publish his Ganesh verse:

*The Pachyderm God without guile  
Is not – I declare – "milkophile";  
The Elephant Frolic  
Is pure Lactophilic –  
That's surely the classical style?*

Nor can I forsake limericks without offering you AJ Godden's suggestion for the promotion of "amicable Eurosensitivities" through a Eurolimerick competition. Here is his model, about a resourceful lady from Ravenna coping with a shortage of men:

*Le donne di vecchia Ravenna  
Die sagen wir brauchen kein Männe  
On fait tous pour soi-même  
Und es gibt kein Problem  
Except for the following generation*

To get you started, he suggests you fill in the lines between "Una bella ragazza di Gola/Rad a torrid affair with a sailor" and the last line. "Wie war denn das für ein Fehler?"

To your dictionaries! There will be a prize, though I can't yet think what.

## worry about your company's technology...



## but don't worry about your company healthcare.

These days, it only takes a matter of months for your business to look out of date. At least choose healthcare that's always setting the trend. On-going investment in our CustomHealth computer system keeps us one jump ahead of the industry. It enables us to offer the fastest, most efficient administration – even tailor schemes and documentation to suit the larger company. And our dedicated service – rated top in our recent Gallup poll – will never go out of fashion.

**Guardian Health**



## Valencia's message to Brighton

Britain's political parties, not to mention its bemused voters, may wish that the tortuous issue of a single European currency would simply go away. Until this weekend that outcome seemed possible. Amid German fears of losing the mark's stability, French difficulties in meeting the requirements of monetary union and British Euro-scepticism, time travel to *la Stephen Hawking* might seem as likely as sterling's disappearance.

But the weekend meeting of EU finance ministers in Valencia altered the political almanac. It revealed a dogged if perhaps unrealistic determination to create a single currency by 1999. Kenneth Clarke made it absolutely clear that Britain, unlike many other EU nations, will be purged of inflation and public debt, and so economics would not disqualify it from joining a multinational currency.

In short, as soon as 1998, a decision could be made on whether Britain should continue with a rump of its European partners, probably Germany, France and the Benelux countries, in forming a single currency.

That may horrify John Major: the Conservatives seem unlikely to be able to deliver monetary union. Even if Mr Major favoured the policy, it would split his party just as surely as did the 1846 reform of the Corn Laws. This may explain why Mr Major has focused recently on discussing future relations between EU members inside and outside a Eurocurrency bloc.

What about Labour? As the party's conference opens today in Brighton, polls suggest that Tony Blair is the politician most likely to be prime minister in 1998. During his first year at No 10 he may have to decide whether to seal the pound's demise.

Yet Mr Blair and his party have been almost as agnostic about monetary union as the Government. Tomorrow, Labour will hold its conference debate on Europe and will enthusiastically embrace the European ideal. Yet the leadership will remain deliberately vague about Labour's attitude to monetary union.

This studied ambivalence is understandable. Labour has its own Euro-sceptics. The party's Europhilia has more to do with support for the European Commission's social policies than with sympathy for the strict monetary discipline that currency union demands. Labour's leadership wants to avoid being accused by the Tories of surrendering British sovereignty. Finally, of course, there may indeed be no point in debating the currency issue: given the poor state of the French economy, it may be impossible for it to meet the 1999 deadline. But if France and Germany do achieve their aim, then the economic and political shape of Europe would be transformed. Britain could not simply ignore the creation of such a powerful bloc: this country would almost certainly benefit more from being inside rather than outside it.

Mr Blair can no longer avoid these issues. His insistence on responsible economic policies, consistent with monetary union, deserves praise. But he must now educate his party and the country about a decision that he may have to confront in the first year of a Labour government. If Mr Blair fails to prepare the ground on Europe, he could find himself as powerless in 1998 as Mr Major is today, faced by an unruly party and an electorate starved of informed debate.

## Prolonging the imperial anguish

The Sunday afternoon pint of shandy in the local pub was short lived. Permitted at last by the relaxation of the licensing laws in August, it was banned again by metrication yesterday. This time the problem is not the alcohol content of shandy, but the fact that it contains lemonade, and so, unlike "traditional" beer, cannot be sold in a pint measure. Sounds absurd, but apart from the odd irritation, most people will hardly have noticed that Britain just stepped up a gear in its transition from imperial to metric measures.

Pounds and ounces are out. Grams and kilos are in. Products must be labelled in metric. They can have imperial labels too, and they don't actually have to change the size of the product they package. So a pound of cheese is fine so long as the label says 454g. Loose food products are still exempt, so are measures that describe a product and so are deeply embedded within our culture: the pint of beer in the pub, the pint of milk on the doorstep, and the 16-inch shirt collar. Eighty per cent of grocery goods already comply with the regulations, so it's hard to see why anyone should complain, other than the Imperial Metrics Preservation Society.

Yet the Federation of Small Businesses and several national newspapers are up in arms. They claim the changes are confusing, unnecessary and costly for retailers. At worst, metrication represents a further loss of British sovereignty in the face of homogenising babble from Brussels bureaucrats. But Eurosceptic passion is aiming at completely the wrong target. The European market is not the only reason for Britain making the change. Met-

ric is easier to use. There are a thousand grams to the kilo, a hundred pence to the pound and 10 fingers to the person.

So why not have both systems of measurement running in tandem? Let those who need familiarity stick with the pounds and ounces they can visualise, and those who need to do lots of adding up use the maths-friendly milligrams, grams, and kilos. Then if the metric measures win in an open competition, no one can complain. The trouble is, that means in the worst of both worlds. Confused shoppers can't work out if packaged tomatoes at £1.60 for 750g are better value than the loose cherry variety at 80p/lb. The point about standard weights and measures is to make sure that the marketplace is fair and everyone knows how much they are buying and selling. The most sensible objection to changing from a familiar to a new measuring system is that in the confusion of the conversion, customers are easily conned - but that's all the more reason to get it over and done with, so we can all get used to the new units.

Furlongs, acres, cubits, and stone have all been around a long time. There are 20 fluid ounces in a pint, two pints in a quart, four quarts in a gallon, two gallons in a peck, four pecks in a bushel and 8 bushels in a quarter. There is a strange beauty about such myriad and complex numbers and patterns developed with quirks and hiccups through the centuries. Even so, the real test of a system of weights and measures is its ease of use, not its depth of culture and tradition. No matter how aesthetically pleasing the sixpence, few would wish to return now to pounds, shillings and pence.

ANGUS DEAYTON

## Not a penny off our aid

Comic Relief, as well as Oxfam, Save the Children and more than 100 other aid organisations are on particularly nasty tenterhooks this week. If what we're told is true, there's an extremely current attempt to slash the overseas aid budget in a way that could effectively almost halve the direct help the Government sends to the poorest people in the world. We beg the Government on bended knees not to make any reduction at all in this budget come November. I'm actually prostrate as I write this. We would hate to see our tax cuts financed like this, and we suspect most people in Britain would feel the same. Ten years ago, at the time of Live Aid, there was an extraordinary unity of emotion over the Ethiopian famine, huge outrage that Western governments had been part of letting such a thing happen. It couldn't have been clearer that British people felt a responsibility to people struggling to survive in the poor half of the world and wanted their government to show it.

Ten years later during 1995's Comic Relief the public donated £7.9m by telephone - double the amount they gave two years before; double the amount donated by telephone to Live Aid. Compassion fatigue? I think not.

Britain, I'm told, has a commitment to the United Nations to increase our overseas aid to 0.7 per cent of the gross national product. As formal commitments go it has turned out to be a bit of

a Will Carling. In 1979 it was 0.51 per cent and now it's only 0.31 per cent. It's less than Germany's percentage. It's less than France's. If we're not to turn magenta with shame, we should at least keep things as they are. Even that, apparently, will mean adding £100m to the budget - which, incidentally, is less than the cost of widening the M25 between junctions 7 and 10.

Last February Douglas Hurd said: "The purpose of aid... is not in question. Nor is the moral imperative to use some of our wealth to help others. But in the longer term it is in our own self-interest too." Somewhat unusually, he's completely right. Major, Clarke, Riddick, Baroness Chalker, Waldegrave presumably know he's right. Let's hope it's not forgotten in the rough and tumble of negotiation.

It's not only aid professionals and a load of loud comedians in loud T-shirts who see the poorest people in the world as silent partners in these Treasury meetings - waiting to see if you're about to let a percentage of their crops die, leave a percentage of their children unvaccinated, a percentage of their water polluted. The British public has stood up for them over and over again with generous good humour and pride. We're pretty sure they'll expect their government to do the same this November.

Angus Deayton is writing on behalf of Comic Relief.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Looking after the welfare of chickens and their pluckers

From Mr Peter Bradnock

Sir: Your leading article "Does anyone care about chickens?" (28 September) and the photograph and report "Chicken farms inflict pain and disease" in the same edition, are grossly inaccurate, and alarmist.

The welfare issues to which you refer are not problems in British poultry farming today. Nor have they ever been of the magnitude or severity, in particular the incidence of heart disease and leg pain, which you imply. To say that each chicken gets a space that is about a quarter of your broadsheet page is highly misleading. Broiler chickens are not reared in cages or otherwise confined. They are free and able to roam around the poultry house. Free-range methods of rearing poultry, which you appear to be advocating, have their own welfare and disease problems which are overcome by conventional housing.

There is no single piece of legislation devoted exclusively to the welfare of rearing broiler chickens, precisely because modern broiler farming methods, in themselves, do not create welfare problems. Nevertheless, chicken welfare is well protected by detailed references in various pieces of legislation governing the rear-

ing, feeding, medication, transport, inspection and slaughter of livestock.

You have pointed out the need for consumers to be properly informed in order to make ethical as well as economical choices. We entirely agree. It is therefore all the more disappointing that the photograph which accompanied your article on the alleged conditions in chicken broiler houses depicted an egg layer house which has nothing to do with the way meat chickens are reared.

Good husbandry, housing, feed, and scrupulous attention to hygiene are the key to good bird health and welfare. Broiler poultry farmers maintain the highest welfare standards and they are proud of their excellent record. Yours faithfully, PETER BRADNOCK, Director General, British Poultry Meat Federation, London, WC1

From Mrs Joan Haggard

Sir: Your leading article asks "Does anyone care about chickens?" The answer is not nearly enough. It certainly seems that most people do not know, and have not bothered to find out, why the price of poultry is so low compared with other kinds of

meat. Intensive broiler production was introduced in the Fifties and Sixties in response to public demand for cheaper food. Now that the true cost, in terms of extreme animal suffering, has been exposed it is up to the public to demand that the procedure is reversed - or, at least, greatly modified.

Humane poultry production may mean using more land (surely better than set-aside) and employing more people which would bring welcome employment to the countryside. And if the cost of a chicken, in actual money, does go up a little, it will not hurt any of us to eat slightly less and have a clearer conscience about it.

Yours sincerely, JOAN HAGGARD, Harpenden, Hertfordshire 28 September

From Mr A. J. P. Dalton

Sir: Your editorial waxes lyrical about the fate of the 700 million chickens slaughtered each year to satiate British appetites. But there are thousands of poultry workers, often female (mainly chicken and turkey pluckers) - many of whom are members of this union - who frequently suffer from painful Repetitive Strain Injuries (RSI).

### Boy soldiers are the true victims

From Professor Paul Richards

Sir: The picture of a recently captured young rebel fighter accompanying Karl Maier's story from war-torn Bo ("Boys in arms find peace a trial", 27 September) summed up at a glance the tragedy that has played out in Sierra Leone these past five years. The technique of recruiting underage combatants was introduced into the region by Charles Taylor's rebels in Liberia, but spread to Sierra Leone with Taylor's allies, the Revolutionary United Front.

The fighting in both Liberia and Sierra Leone bore down heavily on rural civilians and left many youngsters as orphans. These youngsters were preoccupied by the RUF to join their movement. With little idea how to combat sub-teenagers fighting on crack cocaine, the Sierra Leone army, or its proxy militia, began to adopt similar tactics.

Local communities know that youngsters captured by the RUF soon develop a sympathy for their captors. Villagers are hard-pressed to understand why their

own children have turned against them. Sometimes they consider this an irreversible product of rebel "sorcery".

Elsewhere, therapists use the term Stockholm Syndrome to account for the bond that develops between hijack victims and their captors. Summary execution was, at times, the fate of young rebel suspects rejected by their communities. But attitudes are changing.

The Sierra Leone army now recognises that it must treat these rebel children as the victims of the conflict and not as "enemy troops" in the normal sense of the term. This is why young Muse Kpakpa now stares out at *Independent* readers, where others of his kind occupy unmarked mass graves in the forest. Despite understandable civilian bitterness at the way an apparently meaningless war has wrecked rural communities, if this newer sympathetic approach holds then it may be the key to the long-awaited and sorely needed peace process in Sierra Leone.

Yours faithfully, PAUL RICHARDS, Professor of Anthropology, University College London, WC1

### Magazine's future

From Mrs Vicky Hutchings

Sir: May I correct a few errors in your article "Board sacked as Statesman chief steps into the fray" (30 September).

Philip Jeffrey did not take his decision to appoint himself chairman of the board, and ask the board to resign, because the staff were "on the point of passing a vote of no confidence in the board". After the staff and board had been informed of Mr Jeffrey's decision, it was suggested to the staff that they might like to pass a vote of no confidence in the board. This the staff refused to do. Journalists then went on to pass a vote of confidence in their NUI representative on the board and her continuing board membership. While Mr Jeffrey is not a direc-

tor, he and his wife were on the board until late last year. As owners of 49 per cent of the shares and as loan stock holders Mr and Mrs Jeffrey have always had power over the board, which has never acted without consulting them.

As a 20 per cent shareholder and a director, I have not resigned and have no intention of doing so. Incidentally, there is no connection between this and our relationship with the leadership of the Labour Party, with which we shall retain a sceptical friendship under any possible owner or editor. It is simply about finding the best future for the main left of centre publication in the English-speaking world. Yours sincerely, VICKY HUTCHINGS, Director and Assistant Editor, New Statesman and Society, London, E2

### State terrorism in East Timor

From Dr Peter Carey

Sir: The British government's outrage at the European Court's judgment on the Gibraltar killings, and its declared commitment to combating terrorism worldwide, are hard to reconcile with its record of support for state terrorism elsewhere in the world.

Twenty years ago, this year, the former Portuguese colony of East Timor was brutally invaded by the Indonesian military, who have been directly responsible for the death of perhaps as many as a third of the pre-1975 population of 700,000.

Yet, in that same period, Britain has become Indonesia's principal foreign arms supplier, providing a range of sophisticated weapons (including British Aerospace Hawk ground-attack aircraft) which have been used against East Timorese civilians. Training has also been provided in Britain for Indonesian officers from both army and paramilitary (Brinoh Mobile Brigade) police units, some of which have subsequently seen service in East Timor and have been responsible for gross human rights abuses.

Following the Indonesian invasion, Britain voted for two Security Council resolutions calling for the immediate withdrawal of all Indonesian troops and the holding of a popular referendum on the future of the former Portuguese territory. The fact that to this day neither of these demands have been accepted to by Jakarta is largely the responsibility of Indonesia's Western "friends", like Britain, who have been knowing accomplices in its terror regime. In this day and age, is the only honour left that of thieves? Yours sincerely, PETER CAREY, Fellow and Tutor in Modern History, Trinity College, Oxford

### A GP at any age

From Mr F. B. Manley

Sir: You suggest (leading article, "Is young Brian too old to be a doctor?", 27 September) that "the medical profession should realise that it is possible and desirable to teach older dogs new tricks".

My father, the late Dr W. B. Manley, Barrister-at-Law (about 1920), retired in 1945 from 20 years' distinguished practice at the Bar and, aged 60 years, enrolled at St Thomas' Hospital, London, as a medical student. He sailed through every examination and qualified as a medical practitioner five years later at the age of 65. Thereafter he did several locum jobs at Guildford hospitals and also served as ship's doctor on at least two luxury cruises, to South Africa and Australia, until the age of 72. Yours faithfully, F. B. MANLEY, Richmond, Surrey

### Loyalty rewarded

From Mr Maurice O'C. Walsh

Sir: Would it not be fitting to mark Humphrey's return to 10 Downing Street ("Happy returns for Maggie and Maggie", 27 September) by making him Sir Humphrey? Yours sincerely, MAURICE WALSH, Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire 27 September



## comment

## 'Statesman' staggers from crisis to crisis

While political magazines of the right thrive, why is the voice of the left so often in turmoil?

It is odd, when you think about it, that while the Labour Party is in better shape than ever, and while everything seems to bode well for its prospects in the next election, there is still no decent broad-based magazine for people on the left to read. It's not, after all, primarily a question of money. In the general scale of things, a weekly political magazine should not be that hard either to found or to keep going.

One is not envisaging that elusive beast, the daily paper which would have to the Labour Party the same intimate relationship as the *Telegraph* has to the Tories. One is talking about a political and cultural weekly that would have to new Labour the same relationship as *the New Statesman* had to old Labour. In fact, one is talking about the *New Statesman*.

Last week there was a deal of talk in the press about an attempt by Tony Blair's kitchen cabinet to get control of the moribund *New Statesman*, kick out its editor and replace him with a Blair-controlled stooge. Chief culprit in this story was a PR man called Brian Basham, who was said to be in the Blair loop. But Mr Basham tells me this is complete nonsense. He has only met Mr Blair once in his lifetime, and while he does indeed know several Labour figures (the Kinnocks, for instance) he is in no way linked to any Blairite plot.

I also phoned the effective owner of the *New Statesman*, Philip Jeffrey, and asked him whether he thought Mr

Basham was a Blairite Trojan horse, intent on ensuring a loyal, stooge-like magazine. Mr Jeffrey said, in the course of a quite long conversation, that he thought Mr Blair had no interest in the *New Statesman* at all; he said that he would like to improve the *Statesman* to such an extent that Mr Blair would sit up and take notice of it. He also said that if Mr Blair had wanted a Trojan horse on the *New Statesman*, then the obvious candidate would be himself, Mr Jeffrey (a loyal member of Amersham Labour Party), but he had had no approaches of any kind from the Blair camp. In fact, he had had precious little connection at all with the magazine either.

So this idea that Steve Platt, the magazine's editor, was being forced to resign as part of a general attempt to stifle opposition to new Labour appears to emanate from Mr Platt's circle. It appears to be a spin – a genuine example of a spin – from spin-doctors as yet unidentified.

Mr Platt was indeed being asked to resign, had in fact agreed to resign, and the finance committee of the magazine met last Tuesday to draft a press release to say that he had resigned. The reason for this resignation was that a refinancing scheme was being developed, and that if the magazine was to be refinanced the new investors would expect there to be a new editor. They would expect someone who, the phrase goes, was better box office.

Yesterday, there was to have been



JAMES FENTON

A weekly political mag should not be that hard either to found or keep going

a press conference at Brighton, announcing the new deal for the poor old *Staggers and Niggers*. Instead Mr Platt, having been persuaded, or having persuaded himself, that he was being hounded by unsavoury elements from Islington, decided not to resign. Mr Jeffrey learnt that the staff was about to pass a vote of no confidence in the board and decided to demand the resignation of the entire board. Christopher Price, the chairman, resigned, but Mr Basham has yet to do so. The other members have apparently refused to go. But, of course, the refinancing deal appears for the moment to be finished.

I say 'for the moment' because Mr Jeffrey, who, as I reported above, was sweetness itself to me and in all his

references to Mr Blair, gave this paper's correspondent a rather different impression last Friday, saying: "What has happened today is not good news for Tony Blair." Apparently Mr Jeffrey is subject to mood-swings. I got his sweetest side. He paid tribute to the enormous effort and sacrifices made by the board members whom he had just instructed to resign.

The situation, as far as I can see, is that Mr Jeffrey, as is his right, has appointed himself chairman of the board, and brought in the accountant Peter Jones to look at the books and to decide whether or not to close the magazine down. Mr Jones has actually been looking at these books, to the best of my knowledge, for the past two decades. Perhaps he will come up with something this time. Perhaps not. Meanwhile he has the defiantly unresigned former members of the board to deal with.

The boards of the *New Statesman* have a not very happy history. In 1978, when I was one of the candidates for editorship, the paper owned its building in Lincoln's Inn Fields, had money in the bank and made, as a company, an operating profit. All the candidates who made proposals within the fairly cautious old parameters were turned down in favour of an expansionist scheme intended to turn the *Statesman* into a news magazine on the lines of, say, *Der Spiegel*. The scheme was batty, went off at half-cock and the capital was soon used up.

In 1990 the magazine faced bank-

ruptcy but was saved in part by the investments made by two staff members. In one week, in January 1992, the Prime Minister and his caterer sued the magazine and its distributors for libel, the distributors settled their side and under the terms of their contract passed on to the magazine the bill for £250,000, about which it could do nothing. (The magazine's own part in the legal action was settled on much more modest terms.)

When it started going under again in 1993, there was interest from the quarter of one Derek Coombs, a former Tory MP, who is now the biggest single shareholder in *Prospect*, the new political magazine that was launched last week. The board split between supporters of Mr Coombs, who seemed OK except for having been a Tory, and Mr Jeffrey, who was eccentric but was at least Labour. Mr Jeffrey was chosen by one vote, and has since (with his wife) put the best part of £600,000 into the company. He owns 49 per cent, Mr Platt owns 1.5 per cent. Hence the block vote.

If Mr Jeffrey intends to put the paper in the hands of the receivers, he may well thereby end up delivering it into the hands of his old rival for ownership, Mr Coombs. If Mr Platt digs in, in the name of resistance against Stalinist-Blairite stifling of free speech, he may find his position overrun by an old Tory. Could someone make either of these fine individuals see sense?

## To the future, at warp speed

Could time travel come true? Stephen Baxter reports

Long ago I had a vague inkling of a machine... that shall travel indifferently in any direction of Space and Time.

From 'The Time Machine' by HG Wells

Of all the classic subjects of science fiction, perhaps the most out of reach – and therefore the most stimulating for authors, readers and scientists alike – is time travel.

The most prominent opponent of time travel ideas has been Stephen Hawking. But now Professor Hawking has started to concede the possibility, in his foreword to a new book on the science of *Star Trek*.

Hawking makes the point that there is a "two-way trade between science fiction and science". This has worked in the past: Verne and Wells inspired early researchers into space flight, such as Tsiolkovsky, Oberth and Ley, which led directly to Werner von Braun's Apollo triumph in the 1960s.

But could this be true of time travel? A century after publication of *The Time Machine*, what does modern science fiction – and science – tell us of the possibilities of time travel? And what get-out clause in the laws of physics has made Hawking change his mind?

After Wells, sci-fi writers fell on time travel ideas, fans explored past and future, and developed new speculations about time. Ray Bradbury's *A Sound of Thunder* (1952), with its dinosaur hunters inadvertently killing a butterfly, memorably dramatised history-changing. In *Behold the Man* (1969), Michael Moorcock's time tourist finds himself taking Jesus's place on the cross.

Perhaps the most famous time traveller of all is our own, beloved, Dr Who. The best of the Who tales dealt with the theoretical and moral implications of time travel. But is there any way to build a Tardis?

Modern physicists have dreamt up several ways for time machines to work. Following the work of the American physicist Frank Tipler, Kip Thorne and others, most of these paper travellers journey in spacecraft around great loops through space and time.

The loops are closed – the travellers finish up at their starting point in space and in time – by exploiting the space-bending possibilities of Einstein's relativity theory. Thorne will have us travel through fixed wormhole time tunnels, for example, while Tipler urges us to fly around massive, rapidly rotating cylinders. A Kip Thorne time tunnel requiring huge outer-space

construction projects, doesn't match up to our archetypal dream of time cars.

In 1949 Kurt Gödel – who had already, at 25, proved the incompleteness of mathematics – described a rotating universe so distorted by its own spin that it contained paths looping into the past. In such a universe, Tardis could be built.

And, oddly, Wells himself, writing 50 years earlier, described "spinning" as an aspect of time travel. "I seemed to see a ghostly, indistinct figure sitting in a whirling mass of black and brass" (*The Time Machine*). Unfortunately, there is no evidence that our own universe is rotating.

The idea of time-paradoxes developed in SF soon after. Wells: if I go back in time and shoot my grandmother, I will not be born, and therefore could not go back and...

The acme of time-paradox stories is Robert Heinlein's *You Can't Lose* (1959), in which, thanks to a time machine and a sex change, a person acts as his/her own father and mother. In Isaac Asimov's *The End of Eternity* (1955), time police protect a "pure" version of history.

And now, as the physicist, devise almost-plausible time machines, they, too, must wrestle with the possibility of granny-strangling causality loops. This has been Hawking's main sticking point, in fact.

But the small print of the law of physics does contain loopholes. Quantum physics allows the possibility of multiple universes: the idea is that, rather than creating a paradox within an individual history, a new world-line is created each time history is adjusted. Thorne and his co-workers have documented a remarkable series of thought experiments involving billiard balls colliding with themselves after passing through time-spanning wormholes.

We are a long way away from developing a viable prototype time machine. Still, any good SF author knows that anything not outlawed by the laws of physics is only a matter of engineering. And in the parallel development of fictional and scientific time travel ideas, we can see that the feedback loops between science and SF are still working. It would be wonderful to suppose that, among the readers of *The Time Machine*, or Gribbin or Hawking – or even my own books – there will be somewhere the Tsiolkovsky of time travel... Or even the von Braun

The writer is author of *The Time Ships*, HarperCollins, £4.99. Miles Kingdon is on holiday.

Black alienation is erupting in the US. But there could be a positive outcome, says Rupert Cornwell

## After OJ, a black president?



Colin Powell; OJ Simpson; Louis Farrakhan: race, the rawest nerve of American society, has again been exposed, and healing will be required

Mercifully, it is all but over. Johnnie Cochran, Marcia Clark, Judge Ito and the rest of them will no longer hold millions of American lives in their hands. Armies of couch-potato lawyers will disperse, CNN must find new programming schedules. And finally the only heroes of this wretched saga, the 12 jurors and two alternates, will shortly be able to resume a normal existence after nine months of virtual imprisonment. But for America a greater, more perilous ordeal may only be starting. As the Trial of the Century winds down, in the dock is not merely OJ Simpson, but race relations in America at the end of the 20th century.

A month or two ago, for whites at least, the connection scarcely arose. Simpson was black, yes, but the colour of his skin was irrelevant. He had made his way in a white world, had white friends, even a white wife. His trial, whites assured themselves, was not about America's oldest, most intractable problem, but those more comfortable issues of money, celebrity, and whether some of the priciest lawyers in the land could entice a former sporting superstar from an apparently open-and-shut double-murder rap. Then came Mark Fuhrman.

After his perjury, his proven racism, and his taped bragging that the Los Angeles police routinely framed black suspects, even whites convinced by the seemingly irrefutable DNA evidence were no longer sure. For blacks, of course, Fuhrman was confirmation of what they always knew, that for them "justice" was a joke. The disproportionate numbers of blacks in America's prisons, the Rodney King case, now OJ – illustrations all of the America described by Cochran to the annual

Congressional Black Caucus dinner in Washington last weekend, a country of "barbed wire from sea to shining sea".

Whites, not blacks, were shocked by Fuhrman. Whites, decent and god-fearing Caucasian Americans, were appalled that even after the Rodney King case law enforcement in LA might be little more than systematic racism. Now they understood why, from the moment it started, blacks had been as convinced of Simpson's innocence as they themselves were of his guilt. An ABC-News poll on Thursday, showing a 77 to 18 presumption of guilt among whites and an almost exactly opposite figure among blacks, was no

longer irrational: merely another snapshot of a polarised country and a disquieting hint of what might lie ahead. Consider, for a start, the "Million Man March" to be held in Washington in a fortnight's time. It is organised by the radical black leader Louis Farrakhan, whose Nation of Islam movement has been providing a bodyguard for Johnnie Cochran throughout the last week of the trial. Sanctioned by Jesse Jackson, the occasion could see the largest black gathering in the capital since Martin Luther King proclaimed "I have a dream" before 200,000 people in August 1963. The ostensible goal is to reassert the com-

mitment of black males to family, work and self-advancement and loosen the stereotypes of violence, sexual irresponsibility, and despair which stifle black America. But what if, at that very moment, a jury 3,000 miles away in Los Angeles proves the expert predictions wrong and "white justice" nails OJ?

Combustibles enough are already in place – even if Simpson were to this day living in domestic bliss, plugging Hertz rental cars and doing the commentary at televised football games. Black unity may be the order of the hour, but the prime mover remains Farrakhan. His image may have softened of late. But for whites (and not a few blacks) he remains a divisive and threatening figure, an emblem of militancy, anti-Semitism and intolerance.

For grievances, however, Farrakhan need look no further than the Capitol Hill which overlooks the Mall where they will gather. Blacks overwhelmingly vote Democrat. But a Republican Congress is seeking deep cuts in welfare, the Medicaid scheme for the poor, and a host of other smaller programmes – all part of America's social safety net, whose reduction will hit blacks especially hard. A block behind the Capitol, the Supreme Court looks poised to strike down electoral districts artificially drawn to send minority representatives to Washington. If it does, the seats of up to half the 38-strong Black Caucus in Congress will be at risk.

And then there is affirmative action, assailed by Republican presidential contenders and undermined by this summer's Supreme Court ruling overturning laws that helped minority-owned firms to win government contracts. Even desegregated school

busing, that huge symbolic blow for racial equality, is being chipped at across the country. In short, a new and mean-spirited white Republican establishment seems bent on tearing up the achievements of 30 years of struggle for civil rights. And, say social Darwinians, why not? After all, blacks have had preferential treatment long enough: if they still cannot get ahead, then the fault must be largely theirs. Some middle-class and conservative blacks might agree; but not, surely, the vast majority of those who will flock to Farrakhan's banner on 16 October.

And yet, amid the alienation and division, an extraordinary phenomenon is

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## Generation Why



by Tony Reeve and Steve Way

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## obituaries / gazette

## Susan Fleetwood

Susan Fleetwood was an actor's actor. Or maybe a director's. At any rate hers was the kind of dramatic talent which thrived in the subsidised sector, and since that sector has always been run by directors they – rather than the players – have become the stars of the serious stage in Britain. You have only to glance at the billing. The days when an impresario built an actor into a star – a name to draw the public – have long gone, at least on the classical stage. (On television, of course, it is another story and another kind of acting.)

Susan Fleetwood was born in 1944, the daughter of an Army officer and the sister of Mick Fleetwood, one of the co-founders of the rock band Fleetwood Mac. There was never an actress of more obvious dedication to the classics. Even at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art it was Shakespeare, on a tour of Arizona in 1964, when she played Rosalind and Lady Macbeth. Later that year it was Lady Percy in *Henry IV, Part One* at the Everyman, Liverpool, where a group of young directors such as Terry Hands (a star-to-be with Peter Hall's Royal Shakespeare Company) and Peter James were staging ancient and modern classics – Wilde, Goldoni, O'Neill, Shakespeare and Fernando Arrabal – in their radical way.

There came a decade with the RSC, interrupted by stints with two other subsidised classical companies, the Prospect Theatre company and the Cambridge Theatre company. With them, Fleetwood played opposite another up-and-coming classicist, Ian McKellen. In *The Recruiting Officer* she strutted charmingly about as Silvia, the girl who gets her man when ordered by her father to serve as

a soldier under the command of her beloved, unsuspecting Captain Plunkett, played by McKellen. Coming only eight years after Maggie Smith's success in the same part, the performance revealed another truly promising actress. Or was it just her height which did the trick? To be "uncommon tall" is not always an asset to an actress.

Fleetwood also toured Europe as Ophelia to McKellen's Hamlet, ending up in the West End (Cambridge Theatre, 1971) before returning to the RSC with which her appearances as Audrey, in *As You Like It*, and Marina and Thaisa (mother and daughter), in *Pericles* (Ian Richardson played the title role), had established her as an actress to watch. She took over from Judi Dench as Portia to Ennys James's Shylock, headed the Chorus somewhat sensationally, to the point of simulated orgasm, in Terry Hands's production of *Murder In The Cathedral*, and loomed manfully about in John Arden's four-hour epic *The Island Of The Mighty* at the Aldwych. Sometimes an actress is ill-served both by writers and directors; and Fleetwood had to endure such setbacks; and accept that she had a way – a warm personality, lovely voice, sunny demeanour – of rising above her material or the whims of her directors. In *The Taming Of The Shrew* (1973) she again and again held her own as Katharina to Alan Bates's sniping Paduan, in a production which went all out for gags and knock-out "fun" at the expense of character.

When Peter Hall took over the National Theatre from the ailing Laurence Olivier in 1973, Fleetwood shared everyone's hopes of a new golden era of the

classical stage. In an otherwise all-Irish production of *The Playboy Of The Western World* (1975) her Peggion Mike won general approval and if her Ophelia to Albert Finney's Hamlet did not have us all in tears it was full of colour, variety, warmth, without ever being sentimental. Warm again was her touch as the old writer's nurse in Osborne's *Watch It Come Down* – a performance full of charitable emotion – but her gifts were often wasted in new plays.

After her success in Synge came an affecting Nora in O'Casey's *The Plough And The Stars* (again surrounded by an all-Irish cast) and a return to Chekhov in *The Cherry Orchard* (1978) as an unusually good-humoured Varya in Hall's production of Michael Frayn's translation, and she was suitably woeful as Ismene in Edward Bond's neo-Greek epic *The Woman: Scenes of War And Freedom* (1978, Olivier).

Back with the RSC in 1980 she came into her own – rather improbably perhaps – as Rosalind in Terry Hands's staging of *As You Like It*. She brought such intensity of joy to her feelings for Orlando, such a natural desire to rejoice in her luck, that it touched the heart. Hers was a Rosalind of such a breathless coming-on disposition that as Ganymede, Orlando's tutor in the art of courtship, she seemed to throw to the winds all pretence of being a boy as she lashed to lay hands on the pupil.

Six seasons later, for the first time in a career which had hitherto bypassed the West End, she found herself playing opposite Paul Scofield in *I'm Not Rappaport* (Apollo), a charming if sentimental Broadway study of two New York octogenarians, in which she

was driven to destruction by her father's precarious existence among the muggers and junkies; but that was orthodox commercial casting.

In 1988, back at the National, Fleetwood brought us all up with a jolt as Laura in Osborne's searing version of Strindberg's *The Father* (Cottesloe). Flat-voiced, ashen-faced, stooping, staring, when she laughed at her tormented husband she sent a chill round the house. Who knows what riches she might have brought us in the theatre had that side of her talent been cultivated in, say, Ipsen, the only other great author who seems never to have come her way?

Of course she had a fine reputation on television. Some might call it stardom. It came in such programmes as *The Buddha Of Suburbia* (1993), *Chandler And Co* (in which she played the policewoman Kate Phillips), and the BBC film of Jane Austen's *Persuasion* (1995).

Her films included *Heat And Dust* (1982), Tarkovsky's *The Sacrifice* (1985), *White Mischief* (1987) and *The Krays* (1990); but such Rosalinds, Lauras and Katharinas are few and far between.

Adam Benedict

Susan Fleetwood once almost boasted to me that she never read anything, writes Peter Eyre. She did not want to advertise the fact, but she had a mild form of dyslexia, and the lines were carefully coloured in her scripts to make it easier for her eyes to focus.

She was momentarily out of work when we discussed her disinclination to read. I wanted to know how she was filling her time. She told me she kept a script open on a kind of lectern, and every now and then would



Acting treated almost as a religious vocation: Fleetwood as Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, RSC, 1990. Photograph: Stuart Morris

stand there, working on a passage and acting out a scene – Medea, perhaps, Cleopatra, Hedda Gabler – great roles she had not yet played. I suggested to her that this was a form of reading, but she was insistent: "It's plays, not books. It's work."

She had an almost fanatical dedication to her work. As with some of the great actresses of this century – Eleanor Duse, Elisabeth Bergner, for example – it was possible to believe that for her acting was almost a religious vocation, so deep and single-minded was her involvement. But the Tragic Muse had

a rival, as she was also blessed with an astonishing gift for comedy. She was a brilliant mimic with an anarchic sense of the absurd in life, and in some of her most memorable performances displayed this skill – unforgettably as the egotistical Kaleria in Maxim Gorky's *Summerfolk* (1974, Aldwych), with her piercing shriek "What about me?" at the end.

Although the great Shakespeare heroines she played so sensitively – Imogen, Rosalind and Ophelia among others – suggested the noble spirit of Ashcroft, an actress and friend

she particularly admired, her beautifully pointed comic performances (in Merchant-Ivory's *Heat And Dust*, for example) were not far from the world of Margaret Rutherford. Her range was enormous, and she seemed to bring off successfully whatever was demanded of her. She could appear to be a very abandoned extrovert, with her hoisterous laugh and Valkyrie energy which could dominate a room as easily as a theatre. In fact she was a very solitary person, extremely private.

References to her long illness

were rare, even non-existent, and usually indirect. In a letter she wrote to me a few weeks ago, from her mother's house, she asked me not to worry about her. However, she had a confession to make. She had actually read a book – Isabel Allende's *The House of The Spirits* – and enjoyed it. "Perhaps I'll get a real taste for it," she wrote, "and completely overcome my dyslexia."

Susan Maureen Fleetwood, actress: born St Andrews 21 September 1944; died Salisbury 29 September 1995.

## Albert Johanneson

Albert Johanneson was the first black footballer to achieve true prominence in the English professional game. Others before him, such as Roy Brown, of Stoke City, and Doncaster Rovers' Charlie Williams (who became better known as a comedian), enjoyed worthy careers just after the Second World War, but the personable South African's dazzling exploits with Leeds United in the 1960s gave him a far higher public profile.

Johanneson was a left winger whose explosive pace, bewitching sidestep and knack of scoring goals made him one of the most effective early contributors to the revival at Elland Road inspired by Don Revie.

Having been recommended to the then Second Division club by a teacher in his home town of Johannesburg, the 21-year-old Johanneson impressed on a three-months trial with Leeds, and then became one of Revie's first signings in April 1961. Conditioned by a life of rigid apartheid, Johanneson was understandably unsure of himself initially, not even knowing if he was allowed to join his white colleagues in the team bath. They responded by stripping him of his kit and plunging him in; a rough-and-ready welcome but a warm one which he appreciated.

Thereafter, Johanneson settled well both on and off the pitch, winning promotion to the senior side, and became a favourite with the Elland Road fans. They, like the vast majority of other supporters, judged him purely on his merits as a

footballer, and he stood out as one of the few entertainers in an essentially dull team. Incidents of racism were extremely rare, though on one occasion he complained that an Everton defender, whom he didn't name, had called him a "black bastard" during the heat of a particularly bitter match. Revie's advice was to "call him a white bastard back."

Johanneson distinguished himself in the latter stages of Leeds's successful battle against relegation in 1961-62, then became firmly established in the side and was the joint top scorer with 13 League goals as they won the Second Division championship two years later.

He was especially effective in tandem with the club's skipper, Bobby Collins. As the ever-voiced little Scottish schemer put it: "Albert could fly and I could put the ball on the spot for him. When he was in his stride there weren't many who could catch him."

Johanneson's performing peak came, perhaps, in 1964-65, when the newly promoted Leeds were pipped for the title only on goal average by Manchester United, then lost the FA Cup Final to Liverpool. In retrospect, that Wembley defeat – Johanneson was the first black player to appear in a final, but made disappointingly little impact – marked something of a watershed in his career. It was as though his self-belief, always rather fragile, had taken a severe knock and he was never quite the same again.

Soon after that he lost his



Johanneson meeting Leeds fans on the eve of the 1966 FA Cup Final. Photograph: George Greenwell

place to the England international Mike O'Grady and then became increasingly peripheral through a combination of niggling injuries and the rise of the brilliant Eddie Gray. Accordingly, Johanneson was no more than a hit player as Revie's Leeds matured into a mighty footballing force and it was no surprise when he left to join York City, of the Fourth Division, in the summer of 1970. Though in his 31st year, he had much to offer the Minister men

and in his one full season at Bootham Crescent, he helped them gain promotion. He continued to be dogged by fitness problems, however, and retired in 1971.

In the years that followed, Johanneson fell on hard times and his health suffered as he became dependent on alcohol. A gentle fellow, he had been popular with his team-mates, some of whom attempted to help him over his difficulties.

Poignantly, though, he died

alone in a tiny council flat in a Leeds tower block, aged just 55, and had reportedly been dead for several days before his body was discovered. It was a pitiful end for a man who, in his pomp, had thrilled huge crowds and earned their affection.

Ivan Postings

Albert Johanneson, footballer, born Johannesburg 12 March 1940; played for Leeds United 1961-70, York City 1970-71; died Leeds 24 September 1995.

## Gerd Bucerius

In 1945 a press officer of the British Military Government asked the Hamburg minister responsible for the city's housing to set up a daily paper. The person concerned was Gerd Bucerius, a lawyer by profession. He presented a plan which the British adopted and they, not he, started to publish the highly successful *Die Zeit*. As a consolation prize the British gave Bucerius a licence to publish a weekly, *Die Zeit*. Publication began on 21 February 1946.

In terms of prestige the weekly came to overshadow the daily. Together with *Der Spiegel*, Bucerius's publication has remained the most influential German weekly. Yet the development of *Die Zeit* was not without difficulties. Although Germans were excited about new ideas in politics, the arts and economics, and were desperate for contributions which helped them to understand the shameful years of Hitlerism, the financing of such a project was not easy. In the 1950s the paper suffered severe financial losses.

Bucerius had bought 50 per cent of the shares in the rival weekly *Stern*, which was a great financial success. *Stern* was glossy, *Die Zeit* was not; *Stern* mixed fashion, crime, sex, scandal, even cookery with serious political articles. Happily all three weeklies survived. *Die Zeit* achieved profitability in the second half of the 1970s. In its early years the paper was regarded as independent but rather conservative; by the end of the 1960s it was on the liberal wing of the Bonn establishment.

Gerd Bucerius was born in Ham, Westphalia, in 1906. He studied law in Hamburg and worked briefly as a judge in Kiel and Flensburg. He could not continue in this position after the Nazi take-over in 1933 but remained a lawyer, defending those who fell foul of the regime.

Bucerius was a founder member of the right-of-centre Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in 1945. After serving in the regional government in Hamburg and the Economic Council, the forerunner of the German parliament, he entered the first democratically elected post-war German parliament, the Bundestag, in 1949, remaining a member until 1962. He was most concerned about the future of Germany and served as the chairman of the Berlin committee, in 1949-53.

From the start, Bucerius was for the market economy, worried about the influence of the Catholic church and took the view that the Protestant wing of the CDU must have its proper place in the party hierarchy. Nevertheless, he supported Konrad Adenauer as party leader and Chancellor. Later he became increasingly disenchanted with "the old for". Adenauer wanted to make Bucerius responsible for any criticism of his leadership which appeared in *Die Zeit*. Bucerius could not convince his leader that he did not interfere with the editor's freedom. On 22 March 1962 Bucerius resigned from parliament and from the CDU. He supported Dr Ludwig Erhard, the "Atlanticist" and father of the econo-

mic miracle, to succeed Adenauer in 1963 against the "Gaullist" wing of Christian Democracy.

In the 1980s Bucerius handed over the management of *Die Zeit* to Helmut Schmidt, who had been removed from office in 1982 after the Liberal FDP had withdrawn its support from the Social Democratic Chancellor. Bucerius had known Schmidt since they were both politically active in Hamburg in the post-war years. This did not mean that Bucerius had become a Social Democratic supporter, rather he supported the ex-Chancellor. He was critical of the SPD's dialogue with the ruling SED in East Germany in the 1980s. On this he differed with the formidable Countess Marion Dönhoff, his long-time collaborator at *Die Zeit*. Bucerius felt the SPD was taking the SED too seriously, regarding it as the legitimate representative of the people it ruled. He believed it was an illusion to think real peace could be had with such a regime.

In 1986, together with the Social Democrat Herbert Wehner, Bucerius was elected a freeman of the city of Hamburg. On that occasion Helmut Schmidt said, both were full of passion, both were filled with a sense of responsibility for the fate of Germany.

David Childs

Karl Anton Martin Gerhard (Gerd) Bucerius, publisher, lawyer: born Ham, Westphalia 19 May 1906; publisher and proprietor, *Die Zeit* 1946-95; married 1947 Gertrud Müller; died Hamburg 29 September 1995.

## BIRTHS

RYAN: On 23 September, to Sean and Elizabeth (Woodman), a daughter, Emma Christine. With special thanks to all at PRH, Haywards Heath, and Cowley SCBU.

## DEATHS

HENNESSY: On 25 September 1995, Stuart Michael Hennessy, of Trevi Road, Two Mile Ash, Milton Keynes, passed away peacefully at home, aged 48 years. The funeral is to take place at 12 noon, on Thursday, 5 October 1995, at Crownhill Crematorium, Danesbury Way, Crownhill, Milton Keynes. No flowers please, donations, if desired, for The Macmillan Nurses, The Hospice of Our Lady and St John, Manor Farm, Milton Keynes MK15 9AR. Inquiries please to J.S. Cowley & Son, Funeral Directors, telephone 01908 565353.

HOULDEN: On 27 September, Kenneth Harry Houlden (priest), aged 85, loved husband of Margaret, a loyal and encouraging friend to many. Service of Thanksgiving at Highfield Church, Southampton, on Friday 6 October at 2.15pm. Family flowers only. No letters please. Donations, if desired, to Christian Aid or Highfield Church, to Jno Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester.

## Birthdays

Mr Trevor Brooking, footballer, 47; Dr William Crumond, clinical psychiatrist, 75; Lord Davies, chairman of Welsh National Opera, 55; Sir Brian Dillon, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 70; Professor Sir Robin Dulake, former chairman, British, 67; Miss Anna Ford, broadcaster, 52; Mr Peter Franklin, pianist, 60; Mr Peter Hobson, headmaster, Charterhouse School, 53; Col Geoffrey Luttrell, former Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset, 70; Mr Don McLean, folk singer, 50; Miss Jan Morris, author, 69; Mr James Porter, former director-general, Commonwealth Institute, 67;

## Births, Marriages &amp; Deaths

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

EVERSLEY: A meeting to commemorate and celebrate the life and work of David Eversley will be held in central London on Tuesday 31 October 1995. All are welcome. Please contact Marina Eversley, telephone 01462 742331, fax 01462 743259 for fuller details.

## IN MEMORIAM

MUDE: John Gerald Muirglen, died 2 October 1990. Always missed. Announcements for GASTRO BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Cannon Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5SP. Telephone 0171 293 2011 or faxed to 0171 293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Mr Vivian Ridley, former Printer to Oxford University, 82; The Right Rev Lord Runcie, former Archbishop of Canterbury, 74; The Right Rev Roger Salmons, Bishop of Bathurst, 59; Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor of the Supreme Court, 61; Sting (Mr Gordon Sumner), rock singer, 44; Mr Gary Streeter MR 40; Mr Duncan Thomson, leeper, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, 61; Vice-Admiral Sir Anthony Tippet, former Chief of Fleet Support, 67; Lord Todd OM, chemist, 88; Mr Sam Whitnigh, former deputy chairman, Post Office, 71; Lt-Col Eric Wilson VC, 83.

## Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Richard III, King of England, 1452; Sir Edward Burnett Tylor, anthropologist, 1832; Hans Thomsen, 1839; Paul Ludwig Hans von Bismarck-Schönhausen, 1847; Ferdinand Foch, Marshal of France, 1851; Mohamed Karimullah Gausil, Indian leader, 1869; Wallace Stevens, poet, 1879; Julius "Grochko" Marx, comedian and actor, 1890; Budd Abbott, comedian, 1895; Ignatius Roy Dunscombe Campbell, poet, 1901; Sir La Bauder Shastri, statesman, 1904; Henry Graham Greene, novelist, 1904; Denton Benoit Andran, artist and engraver, 1921; John André, English army officer, executed by George Washington for spying 1780; Admiral August Keppel, first Viscount, naval commander and politician, 1786; Max Bruch, composer, 1920; Svante August Arrhenius, chemist, 1927; Sir Thomas Johnstone Lipton, sportsman and merchant, 1931; Marie Stopes, birth control pioneer, 1958; Marcel Duchamp (Henri-Pierre Roche), Surrealist painter, 1968; Katharine Susan Pritchard, novelist, 1969; Paavo Nurmi, athlete, 1973; Rock Hudson (Roy Fitzgerald Scherer), film actor, 1985; Sir Peter Brian Medawar, medical scientist, 1987. On this day: Saladin, Prince of the Kurds, entered Jerusalem, 1187; the British navy defeated the French at the Second Battle of Cape Finisterre, 1747; Rome became the capital city of Italy, 1870; the first Royal Naval submarine was launched at Barrow, 1901; the first rugby football match was played at Twickenham, 1909; Abyssinia (Ethiopia) was invaded by Italy, 1935; a new island appeared off Poyai Island, Azores, with a volcano at the centre, 1957; Guinea became an independent republic, 1958; Neil Kinnock became

leader of the Labour Party, 1983. Today is the Feast Day of St Eleutherius of Nicomedia, The Guardian Angels and St Lager or Leodegarius.

## Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Elizabeth McCrory "At Home in the 1930s: the ECHO collections of trade catalogues", 2.30pm.

## Gray's Inn

The following have been elected Masters of the Bench of Gray's Inn: Judge Nina Lacey, Mr Michael Lawrence Saunders, Mr Willy Holburn QC, Mr Michael Newman Howard QC, Mr John Henry QC.

## Wills

Sir Bernard Castlefield, of Inglesby, Lincoln, Judge of the High Court of Justice (Queen's Bench Division) 1968-89, left estate valued at £23,422 net.

Dr Michael Scott Montague Fordham, of Jordans, Buckinghamshire, psychologist and founding chairman of the Society of Analytical Psychology, left estate valued at £34,156 net.

## ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Prince Michael of Kent stands Telecom 95, Geneva, Switzerland. Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment march the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

## Changes to improve appeal procedures

## LAW REPORT

2 October 1995

Practice Statement: Procedural Changes: Court of Appeal (Sir Thomas Bingham MR); 24 July 1995

It is generally accepted that steps must be taken to improve existing procedures and shorten the time currently spent on oral argument of cases in court. The accompanying practice direction aims to ensure applications and appeals are handled and decided as efficiently and expeditiously as is practicable consistently with fairness and sound decision-making. The court hopes it may be possible to identify cases susceptible to settlement by mediation and it is hoped to introduce a trial scheme.

The Hon Kenneth Henry Lowry Lamb, of London SW7, Head of Religion, succeeded at the BNC 1963-66, left estate valued at £23,422 net.

Dr Michael Scott Montague Fordham, of Jordans, Buckinghamshire, psychologist and founding chairman of the Society of Analytical Psychology, left estate valued at £34,156 net.

## ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Prince Michael of Kent stands Telecom 95, Geneva, Switzerland. Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment march the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

of Appeal for leave to appeal on paper or in an oral hearing, the applicant should not burden the court with documents not relevant to the application. The Civil Appeals Office sets out the court's requirements concerning bundles.

Where the applicant is legally aided and the single Lord Justice has refused leave on paper, the applicant's solicitor must send to the relevant legal aid office a copy of the single Lord Justice's order.

On a paper application applicants must provide the single Lord Justice with a clear and succinct summary of the grounds unless they are plain in the notice of appeal. If the single Lord Justice grants leave or directs an oral hearing, directions may be given on the time for oral argument and the lodging and service of skeleton arguments.

The time limits for lodging bundles and skeletons for an oral hearing of an application for leave are set out. The applicant's oral argument will be expected to be completed within 20 minutes and that time limit will be extended only if the court considers more extended argument is required.

Where an application for leave is listed for hearing with the appeal to follow if leave is granted, the timetable for skeletons will be the same as in the case of an appeal.

On renewed applications for leave to move for judicial review the applicant, if in person, or his advocate will be expected to complete his oral argument within 30 minutes.

Solicitors for the appellant must lodge an estimate of the length of the appeal hearing exclusive of judgment. The respondent's advocate must notify the Civil Appeals Office if his estimate differs. Any revised time estimate must be lodged in writing.

Each appeal is given a target date or hear-by date. Appeals are designated fixtures, second fixtures or assigned to the short-warned list. Skeleton arguments should identify and summarise the points, not argue them fully on paper. In a normal length appeal of 1-2 days, skeletons should not exceed 10 pages in the case of an appeal on law and 15 pages in an appeal on fact. The court will direct the timetable for skeleton arguments as prescribed in the practice direction. In order

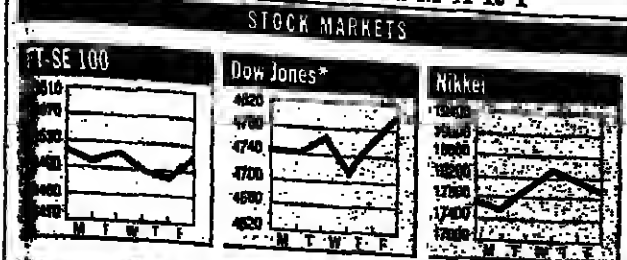
to assist litigants in person two leaflets have been prepared by the Civil Appeals Office.

Part II of the practice direction sets out revised requirements concerning the form and content of appeal bundles. Transcripts lodged must be official copies provided by the shorthand-writers or transcribers. Where the judge handed down judgment, photocopies of that handed-down judgment, signed by the judge, can be lodged for an appeal in lieu of the official transcript. Where an ex tempore judgment was given, the appellant's solicitor should make arrangements for the note of judgment to be prepared and agreed with the respondent and then submitted to the judge as soon as the notice of appeal has been served.

Where the bundles of documents comprise more than 100 pages, a core bundle containing the documents central to the appeal must be lodged. Bundles must be paginated and indexed. All documents must be bound together. All documents must be legible. Time limits will be strictly enforced except where there are good grounds for granting an extension. The solicitor in charge of the case must personally satisfy himself that the documentation is in order before it is delivered to the court.

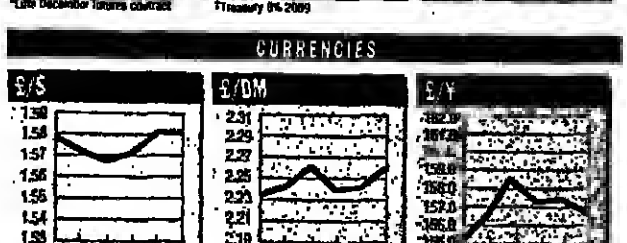
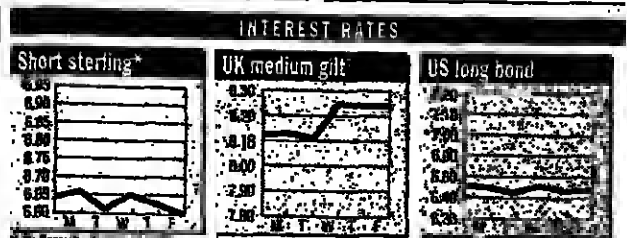


## MARKET SUMMARY



Index	Close	Week's chg	Change (%)	12 Mth High	12 Mth Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	3808.2	-6.6	-0.2	3570.8	2943.4	4.0
Dow Jones	3948.9	+24.5	+0.6	3978.5	3300.9	3.5
Nikkei	1753.3	-0.1	-0.0	1778.3	1477.0	3.9
FTSE 250	1970.4	-7.5	-0.4	1893.1	1678.6	3.3
FTSE 100	4789.7	+24.9	+0.5	4801.8	3874.6	2.4
FTSE 100	1703.1	+199.1	+11.1	2014.8	1448.4	0.8
FTSE 100	2646.3	+104.5	+1.1	2797.4	2367.9	3.3
FTSE 100	2187.0	-24.8	-1.1	2217.0	1911.0	1.9
FTSE 100	1788.4	-2.3	-0.1	2017.3	1721.8	3.8
FTSE 100	8911.0	-121.0	-1.2	10911.0	8265.0	2.0

MAIN PRICE CHANGES		
Rises - Top 5		
Shares	202.5	40.5
Oil	1.5805	+0.13
Gold	384.25	+1.25
FTSE 100	4789.7	+24.9
FTSE 250	1970.4	-7.5
Falls - Top 5		
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OTHER INDICATORS		
Oil Brent	16.12	+0.16
Gold	384.25	+1.25
FTSE 100	4789.7	+24.9
FTSE 250	1970.4	-7.5

## IN BRIEF

### BT denies overcharging reports

BT denied reports over the weekend that it is charging customers £100m a year for calls that are not completed because the numbers are engaged, saying that after three years of research it had found "no evidence" of overcharging. The telecom giant also dismissed accusations that it had told its managers to "fob off" customers when complain of such charges. BT said there had been a significant increase in complaints following the introduction of fully integrated bills a year ago. But in the vast majority of "short-call" cases the caller had either heard a fax tone and rung off or had hung up just as the person was answering.

### London worst for business failures

The number of larger companies going bust in London increased by more than a third in the first nine months of the year, while every other region in Britain enjoyed a fall in business failures. Dunn & Bradstreet, the business information company, said that including small business bankruptcies the capital's failure rate had gone up by nearly a fifth, compared to a nation-wide decrease of 8.7 per cent. Overall, the number of liquidations in Britain rose 4.6 per cent in the first nine months, while smaller business busts fell by 16.4 per cent.

### KPMG to vote on limited liability

KPMG, Britain's second-largest accountancy firm, is tomorrow expected to announce that it is turning its audit division into a limited-liability company in order to give itself greater protection against the growing number of negligence claims. The move is designed to put the audit partners on the same sort of footing as company directors. Coopers & Lybrand, Britain's largest accountancy firm, and other leading practices, such as Price Waterhouse and Ernst & Young, are known to be investigating the issue. Some outsiders say the result of the vote by KPMG's 600 UK partners at London's Savoy Hotel is "too close to call".

### Pubmaster buys Whitbread pubs

Pubmaster, the UK's leading independent pub operator with over 1,700 outlets, has bought 137 pubs from Whitbread for £12.25m. The sites are mainly in the North-west, the West Country and Kent, and had previously been leased from Whitbread as part of a deal agreed between the two companies in June 1992. Four weeks ago Pubmaster paid £2.5m for amusement machine operator Inn Style Leisure, which runs machines in 2,000 pubs.

### CBI looks to middle

The Confederation of British Industry today will launch what it claims is the first organisation to represent Britain's small and medium-sized companies. The Small and Medium Enterprise Council will replace the 25-year-old Smaller Firms Council. John Parson, chairman of the new council, said: "While we endorse the need to stimulate a thriving start-up and micro business sector what we need to do is to encourage the Government to put into place policies that help the growth of a 'Mittelstand' sector, similar to that already in place in Germany."

### Rhone-Poulenc to raise Fisons bid

Rhone-Poulenc Rorer is expected to raise its bid for UK drugs group Fisons by around 21p a share before Friday's deadline for a revised offer, according to sources close to the US pharmaceutical company. In August, Rhone-Poulenc launched a hostile bid at 240p per share in cash, valuing Fisons at £1.7bn. Lehman Brothers and J O Hambro Magan are handling the bid.

### Cortworth plans float

Cortworth, the specialist engineering group, is planning to float on the London Stock Exchange this autumn. Samuel Montagu is sponsor, with James Capel as stockbroker. Cortworth was founded in December 1993 via a management buy-out of most of the specialist engineering division of Williams Holdings. Cortworth made a profit of £5.4m last year on turnover of £58.3m.

# National Power to bid £2.8bn in cash for Southern Electric

JOHN WILLCOCK  
Financial Correspondent

The carve-up of the electricity industry will gather momentum today when National Power launches an agreed £2.8bn cash bid for Southern Electric and puts three of its own power stations up for sale. Later in the week, Houston Industries, a Texas utilities group, will rejoin the battle for control of Norweb. National Power's bid is expected to value Southern, the largest regional electricity company, at around £1,005-£1,015 a share, compared to Friday's closing price of 897p.

Two groups are in contention

for National Power's planned £1bn power station sell-off. Eastern Group and AES, the US energy group, Eastern said yesterday it had "no comment to make on the speculation". In another twist, Houston Industries and its partner Central and South West Corporation are planning another bid for Norweb, after their original agreed offer of £1.7bn last week was trumped by North West Water's hostile bid of £1.72bn.

The Texans fear that NWW may be able to increase its 11.7 per cent stake in Norweb if its share price continues to fall.

The two American companies have a combined market

capitalisation of \$10.4bn and have formed a joint venture, Texas Energy Partners, to invest in utilities world-wide. The Texans have said they want to expand into Britain, partly because of the "very attractive" economic environment, while NWW claims it can get big cost savings by rationalising overlaps between its operations and Norweb.

Some power bosses fear that the National Power bid will finally persuade the Government to launch a monopolies inquiry into the industry. The Labour Party conference this week is set to hear strident calls for a full-blown inquiry into the

takeover frenzy gripping the privatised utilities. The sale of three of National Power's largest power stations, as ordered by power regulator Professor Stephen Littlechild, is designed to head off this threat. Eastern, the Rec bought recently by Hanson, is already buying two power stations for £400m from PowerGen. AES lost out to Eastern in that battle. Both companies have been asked to submit bids for National Power's stations in the next fortnight. The parties hope to complete the deal by the end of the year.

This will cut National Power's share of the generating market

from 34 per cent to 25 per cent, leaving the number one spot to British Energy, the nuclear group to be sold off next year. The current turmoil in the electricity industry looks set to continue as sources close to the Government indicated that Chancellor Kenneth Clarke is unlikely to copy Labour's idea of a £3bn "windfall tax" on the utility companies.

The prospect of more UK utilities falling into overseas hands is another sensitive political issue. If the Texans are successful, Norweb will become the second British electricity company to be bought by Americans, following the

£1.07bn acquisition of South West Electricity by Southern Electric International. There are continuing rumours in the City that PacificCorp of the US will counter Scottish Power's Manweb bid. Six of the Rees privatised in 1990 have been bid for so far, while Manweb has been the only one to face a hostile bid. Other American utilities are expected to enter the ring. The two Texas companies had been talking to Norweb for some time about the UK company joining them in a US power generation project, but the discussions were put on hold after the bid discussions began.

## Falklands oil frontier opens for exploration

HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY and PETER RODGERS

British Gas, Lasmo and other leading oil and gas companies will this week confirm their interest in one of the most exciting frontier exploration areas to emerge for decades. Tomorrow the government of the Falkland Islands will invite Europe's oil companies to search for oil and natural gas in one of the last - and potentially richest - unexplored regions.

Detailed regulations concerning 19 offshore areas, due to be published in Stanley this week, will give companies the right to explore reserves for 47 years - and, after negotiation, perhaps longer. The big companies are playing down the area's potential but it is tantalising. In 1975, a team from Birmingham University identified potential oil-bearing sedimentary strata 3.5 km thick and a Foreign Office report has described the offshore areas as "comparable with many areas of the North Sea".

The licensing round - which later this month moves on to Houston, Texas, to attract North American explorers - comes in the wake of a political agreement on maritime boundaries signed by Britain and Argentina at the United Nations last week. Directly after the signing by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and his opposite number, Guido di Tella, there were calls in Buenos Aires for Argentina to tax companies operating in Falklands waters. Argentine nationalists have also condemned the agreement as a sellout to Britain by President Carlos Menem.

Despite the continuing, but much-diminished, political fragility stemming from Argentina's continuing claim to the islands, exploration prospects are enticing. Although much has been made of the remoteness of the area and its comparative lack of infrastructure, the conditions for drilling around the Falklands are infinitely more favourable than the Arctic environment of Northern Alaska, where BP is pumping out vast quantities of oil.

British Gas, which has a large operation in Buenos Aires, has

had talks with YPF, the Argentine oil company, and others about joint activities in the Falklands. But although the industry has been speculating that British Gas will bid for a key role - one source suggested it might try to get the whole acreage in conjunction with the Argentines - the company has tried to cool speculation.

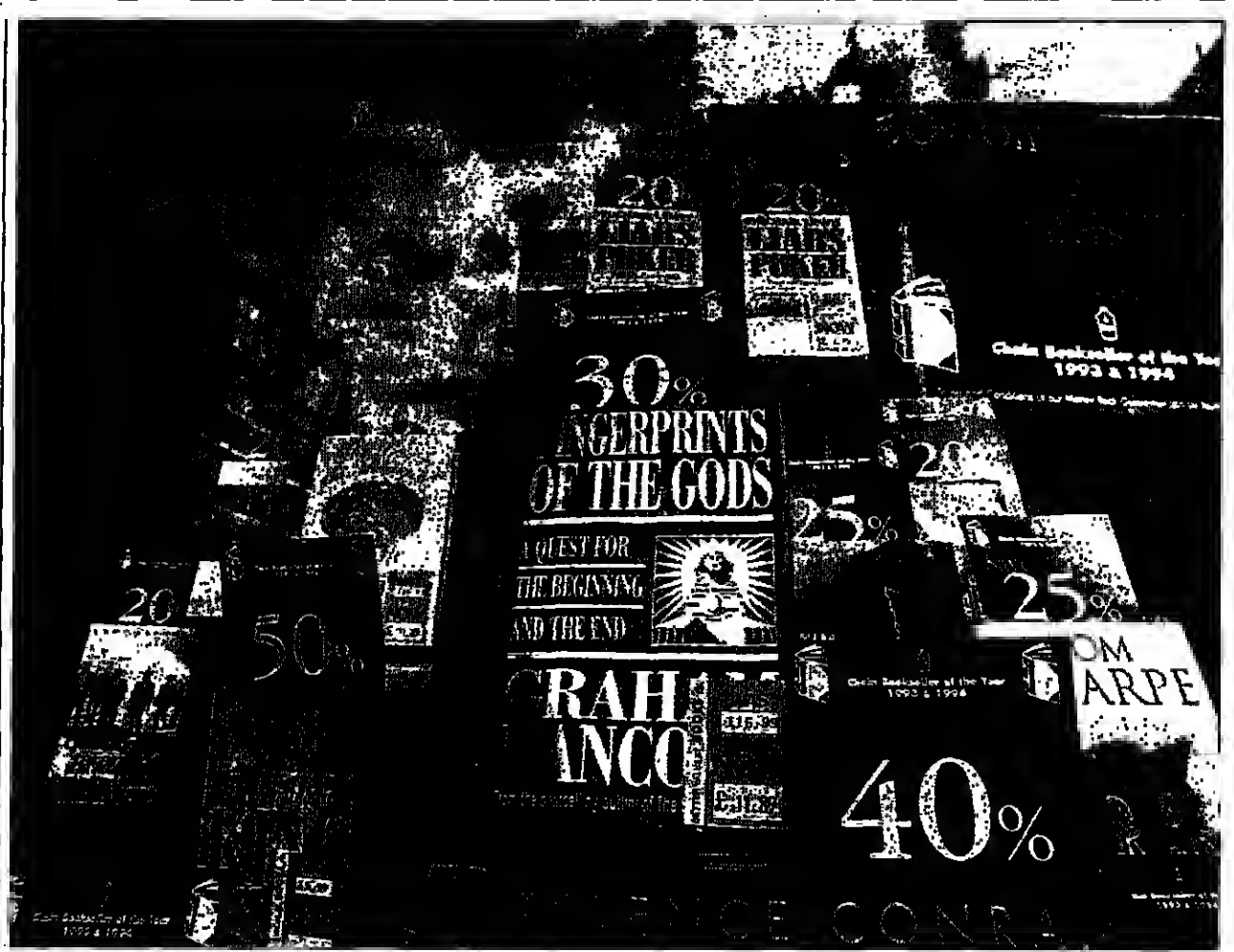
Andrew Gurr, chief executive of the Falkland Islands, said just under 100 top oil companies had been invited to the presentations he is giving tomorrow, which will cover the areas on offer and the legal, taxation and environmental requirements on oil companies.

He expected licensees to form consortiums even among the bigger oil companies. "It's a frontier area," he said. Lasmo, the British oil company, confirmed it was looking at the possibility, but would only proceed if it found partners.

There is only one oil exploration company in the Falklands, Monarch Exploration, which was set up by Gordon Thompson, an oil consultant in the UK, who raised seedcorn money in a share offering to which 150 Falkland Islanders subscribed. Monarch has a registered office in Stanley but no staff there. Mr Thompson said: "We think a genuine Falkland Islands company will be very attractive to have as a partner."

He hopes to link with an exploration company and raise funds to finance Monarch on the back of it. Although the British Geological Survey has likened the area to the North Sea sedimentary basin, oil companies say before an expensive commitment to exploration is made they will need to be convinced there are also large rock structures capable of containing oil - which does not follow automatically. The area involved is 50 per cent bigger than the North Sea.

A decision to shift resources from an existing exploration area was a big one that had to be backed by stronger indications of possible oil-bearing rocks than have yet been made available. However, the presentation is expected to go into more detail.



Falling leaves: Booksellers reported brisk business around the country as the effective demise of the Net Book Agreement triggered discounting at leading bookshop chains. Dillons, now part of Thom EMI, announced cuts on more than 200 titles yesterday, following similar moves by Waterstone's and its parent WH Smith. The decision to abandon pricing has sparked fears that small retailers and publishers of more obscure books could go out of business. Monday Interview with Gail Rebeck, page 21

## Hard dealing amid the canapes

DIANE COYLE  
Economics Correspondent

This week's annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Washington, notorious for their lavish cocktail parties and intense networking, are expected to be harder work than usual.

They meet at a time when the currency markets are poised to overturn the "orderly reversal" of the dollar's fall against the yen, which the G7 ministers first said they sought at their April meeting, and finally achieved in August. In the past 10 days the dollar has returned to its end-August level.

The G7 meeting next week is also expected to discuss a plan for rebuilding Bosnia after its bitter war. It will seek to co-ordinate UN emergency relief with longer-term projects by the World Bank and IMF. However, these are areas

where ministers on the whole agree about what needs to be done. There are several others with the potential to turn into anything from an "agreement to disagree" to a full-blown row.

A discussion of debt relief for the world's poorest countries falls into the former category. Britain has taken a lead during the past year in moving this unglamorous topic up the agenda. Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's proposal that the IMF sell some of its gold reserves, invest the proceeds and use the income for debt relief is unlikely to gain approval from fiscally strait-laced countries such as Japan and Germany.

A leaked World Bank proposal for a trust fund that would meet debt repayments is unlikely to be approved. Some of the G7 countries - the biggest shareholders in the bank and IMF - disagree in principle with anything that appears to let

countries off their debts. But a broad agreement on what ought to be done for the world's poorest debtors could still emerge.

A second thorny topic is how to increase the IMF's crisis funds. This is one of the unresolved issues raised by the Mexico crisis at the turn of the year. When that broke, the fund happened to have plenty of cash on hand but it might not in future.

The front-runner as a source of extra crisis cash is an expansion of the General Arrangements to Borrow. This is a kind of IMF overdraft facility funded by the G10 countries - the G7 plus the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden and late joiner Switzerland.

The seven biggest countries want to bring in other nations to expand this facility. The opposition will come from the four non-G7 members of the G10 club. They fear the dilution of their influence in the international financial arena. Another post-Mexico problem is putting the finishing touches to the IMF's surveillance of its member countries. The fund has successfully tightened up its annual "Article Four" consultations to the point where one head of state has made a complaint about how frank the fund's report was. However, it wants to publish a list of countries that do not meet its minimum standards for economic statistics. Dropping off the list would obviously scare away foreign investment. Some countries that fear their statistics are not up to scratch will object to the idea of publication.

The biggest battle of all, however, will not take place between participants at the meetings. It will be the battle to persuade the US Congress not to cut the American contribution to the World Bank's development arm, the IDA.

## PIA proposals could end impartial advice

NIC CICUTTI

Independent financial advisers could be given the right to restrict the products they sell to just a handful of insurance companies, if a financial services watchdog bows to pressure and changes its rules. Such a move would in effect mark the end of truly independent financial advice.

Proposals to scrap the existing system, called polarisation, are discussed in a document currently being drawn up by the Personal Investment Authority, the industry watchdog.

The move to change the system is being backed by Sir Mark Weinberg, the chairman of J Rothschild Assurance. Sir Mark received a knighthood for his efforts in helping to draw up the Financial Services Act in 1986.

Under the existing system, financial advisers must choose between selling the products of only one company or advising

clients about the entire range within the market. Changing the rules would allow them a halfway house, in which they tie to several companies rather than one.

This would allow existing tied agents to sell a wider range of products than before, but independent advisers would be restricted to just the companies they tie with.

In return for abandoning the polarisation system, it is being suggested that insurance companies might shoulder their own tied agents' share of the overall £3bn pension transfer compensation bill.

This would benefit independent advisers, hundreds of whom could be forced out of business by the need to offer redress to clients whom they wrongly advised to opt out of company pensions and into private ones.

The proposals for a "multi-tie" system have been bitterly attacked by some financial

advisers as harmful to the consumer.

Brian Denny, the chairman of the IFA Association, the advisers' trade body, has argued that prospective clients would be unable to tell whether advice being given was truly independent.

Academic studies have suggested that the existence of a strong IFA market has helped to keep prices of various products down as providers are forced to compete for business from advisers.

However, even independent advisers admit that the idea of impartial advice is something of a myth.

Jim Gaskin, the managing director of Countrywide, a national organisation of 600 independent financial advisers, says: "In reality, although we have over 200 companies on our recommended product list, more than 90 per cent of our business is done with 25 companies."

JOHN SHEPHERD

Allied Domecq has appointed Goldman Sachs to advise on selling its half-share in Carlsberg. The UK's third-largest brewing group. The move is the latest in the consolidation of the brewing industry, following the £425m takeover of Courage by Scottish & Newcastle.

Whitbread, the fourth biggest, and Bass, which was displaced from top spot in the industry by the Courage takeover, are favourites to buy Allied out of Carlsberg. The move is

Brewing is now at odds with Allied's strategy, which is focused on wines, spirits and retailing through pubs, Victoria Wine off-licences, Baskin Robbins ice cream parlours, and Dunkin Donuts.

Industry sources said Allied was moving fast to try and exit the brewing venture, which has failed to live up to expectations since the deal with the Danish Carlsberg group was consum-

mated three years ago. On 12 December, Allied loses its casting vote on the board, comprising an equal number of representatives from Carlsberg and Allied. Carlsberg will be given the option to take up the casting vote, which it could use to hamper attempts by Allied to sell out to another brewer.

The brewing venture is far more important to Carlsberg than Allied, with more than a third of the Danish group's profits coming from the UK. Carlsberg, the fourth-biggest brewer in Europe and eighth-largest in the world, has the resources to buy out its partner's half-share, but the move would be pointless unless it could secure an agreement to supply beer to Allied's 4,300 pubs.

Analysis believe Allied would drive a hard bargain on any supply agreement simply because it would be able to source beer easily, and cheaply, from an industry that can produce more pints than it can possibly sell.

Carlsberg Tetley itself is over-endowed with production capacity, operating out of six brewery sites in Northampton, Wrexham, Warrington, Burton, Leeds and Alloa in Scotland. One brewing analyst said one possibility two breweries would have to be closed before Allied could consider marketing its share in Carlsberg Tetley.

A source close to Carlsberg said that the Danes, who entered the UK market in 1868, "would fight at all costs" to stop Bass from coming on board. One of the biggest concerns is a clash of two top-selling, high strength lager brands, Bass's Tennent's Super and Carlsberg Special Brew. Whitbread, which tried to buy Courage, is understood to be ready to make a bid to buy Allied out of the venture.

Allied declined to comment about the appointment of advisers from Goldman. A spokesman for Goldman said: "We never comment on a client assignment."



## TODAY

## Companies

Moss Bros, owner of Savoy Tailors Guild, The Sui Company and Cecil Gee, continues to benefit from renewed interest in formal wear. Analysts expect half-time earnings in line with last year's record £1.9m. Interims: Ash & Lacy, Brightstone, British Dredging, Chiroscience, Greemac, Moss Bros, Oasis, Style.

Finals: Anglessey Mining, Betacom, DCS, Groupe Chez Gerard, Melrose Energy, Ricardo.

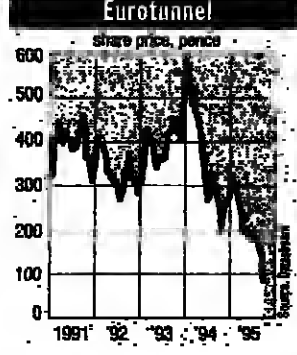
Annual meetings: Ashtead, Europak, IAF, Victoria Carpet, EGMs: Alumax, Anglo Eastern Plantations, Forth Ports.

minutes of the late-July monetary meeting that the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England were beginning to become concerned about the rapid expansion in the money supply. The Nationwide house price index will be published. Overseas, the National Association of Purchasing Managers Survey brings the first evidence on the US economy in September.

## TOMORROW

## Companies

Profits from Manchester United



ed are expected to rise sharply, helped by gains on the sale of players. United will confirm itself as Britain's most profitable football club and its prospects will be helped by the return to competitive play of Eric Cantona who played yesterday for the first time since attacking a fan at Crystal Palace. Half-time profits are expected to approach £20m, from £10.8m last year.

Interims: Arcadian, Biocompatibles, Bloomsbury Publishing, Ibstock, Middlesex Holdings, Second Market Investment Trust, Silentnight.

Finals: James Halcro, Manchester United, BBB Design, J Saville Gordon.

Annual meetings: None scheduled.

EGMs: None scheduled.

**Economics**  
Figures for world-wide trade in July are likely to confirm the deterioration in Britain's

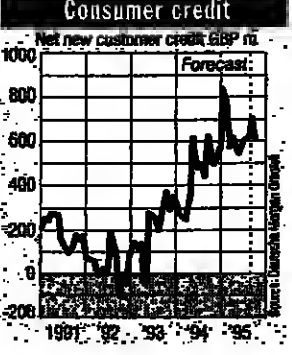
deficit. The expectation is a deficit of £1.1bn; trade with non-EU countries in July was £87m in the red. Bank of England statistics on consumer credit are expected to show a smaller increase in August than the £701m rise in July, partly because of a weather-related drop in retail sales. But the underlying increase is likely to stay strong. The Halifax house price index, used to calculate housing costs in the RPI, is due to be released.

## WEDNESDAY

## Companies

Hewlett-Packard, the UK's largest plant-hire company, should show that it is continuing to prosper despite the dismal state of the British construction industry. Pre-tax profits are expected to jump by almost a quarter from £16.2m to £20m. Hewlett-Packard has benefited from the problems experienced by smaller plant hirers but analysts expect growth to slow in the second half.

Interims: Abstrust European Index, Austin Reed, Bank of Scotland, Blenheim, Global, Grampian Holdings, Hewlett-Packard, Hunting, Investment Trust of Jersey, Neill Clerk,



Prospect Japan Fund, REA, United Industries.

Finals: Burn Stewart Distillers, Magnum Power, Usborne.

Annual meetings: Duoloo, First Spanish Investment Trust, Peel, Platignum.

EGMs: Home Counties Newspapers.

**Economics**  
The IMF releases its annual forecasts for the world economy, as the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank begin in Washington. US factory orders are likely to have rebounded in August after a fall in July.

## THURSDAY

## Companies

Meggitt, the aviation equipment designer, is expected to announce strategic plans for its six core businesses as it reports interim results. Uncertainty has dogged its share price.

## FRIDAY

## Companies

Interim figures from Euro-norm will cast more light on the company's first full year of operation. It will also have the opportunity to give information on its negotiations with banks following the suspension of interest payments on £8bn of debt. Revenues in the first half were £104.5m against a forecast of over £500m for the full year. A loss for the period of over £350m is expected.

Interims: BMSS, Chesham Racecourse, Horace Clarkson, Eurotunnel, Martin, HC Singers.

Finals: Waterman Partnership.

Annual meetings: East German Investment Trust, PSIT.

EGMs: Wickes.

**Economics**  
The key US employment report will be the focus of attention, the day ahead of a G7 meeting in Washington. The expectation is the US labour market is losing momentum, so the rise in employment should be much lower than August's increase of 249,000.

## BANKS, MERCHANT

Company	Share Price	Change
Barclays Bank	120.00	+0.25
Bank of Scotland	110.00	+0.50
Bank of Ireland	105.00	+0.75
Bank of London	100.00	+0.50
Bank of Montreal	95.00	+0.25
Bank of New York	90.00	+0.50
Bank of Paris	85.00	+0.25
Bank of Spain	80.00	+0.50
Bank of Tokyo	75.00	+0.25
Bank of West	70.00	+0.50
Bank of America	65.00	+0.25
Bank of China	60.00	+0.50
Bank of India	55.00	+0.25
Bank of Japan	50.00	+0.50
Bank of Korea	45.00	+0.25
Bank of Russia	40.00	+0.50
Bank of South Africa	35.00	+0.25
Bank of Sweden	30.00	+0.50
Bank of Switzerland	25.00	+0.25
Bank of Taiwan	20.00	+0.50
Bank of Thailand	15.00	+0.25
Bank of Vietnam	10.00	+0.50
Bank of Yugoslavia	5.00	+0.25

## BANKS, RETAIL

Company	Share Price	Change
Bank of America	65.00	+0.25
Bank of China	60.00	+0.50
Bank of India	55.00	+0.25
Bank of Japan	50.00	+0.50
Bank of Korea	45.00	+0.25
Bank of Russia	40.00	+0.50
Bank of South Africa	35.00	+0.25
Bank of Sweden	30.00	+0.50
Bank of Switzerland	25.00	+0.25
Bank of Taiwan	20.00	+0.50
Bank of Thailand	15.00	+0.25
Bank of Vietnam	10.00	+0.50
Bank of Yugoslavia	5.00	+0.25

## BREWERIES

Company	Share Price	Change
Bank of America	65.00	+0.25
Bank of China	60.00	+0.50
Bank of India	55.00	+0.25
Bank of Japan	50.00	+0.50
Bank of Korea	45.00	+0.25
Bank of Russia	40.00	+0.50
Bank of South Africa	35.00	+0.25
Bank of Sweden	30.00	+0.50
Bank of Switzerland	25.00	+0.25
Bank of Taiwan	20.00	+0.50
Bank of Thailand	15.00	+0.25
Bank of Vietnam	10.00	+0.50
Bank of Yugoslavia	5.00	+0.25

## BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Company	Share Price	Change
Bank of America	65.00	+0.25
Bank of China	60.00	+0.50
Bank of India	55.00	+0.25
Bank of Japan	50.00	+0.50
Bank of Korea	45.00	+0.25
Bank of Russia	40.00	+0.50
Bank of South Africa	35.00	+0.25
Bank of Sweden	30.00	+0.50
Bank of Switzerland	25.00	+0.25
Bank of Taiwan	20.00	+0.50
Bank of Thailand	15.00	+0.25
Bank of Vietnam	10.00	+0.50
Bank of Yugoslavia	5.00	+0.25

## BUILDING MATERIALS

Company	Share Price	Change
Bank of America	65.00	+0.25
Bank of China	60.00	+0.50
Bank of India	55.00	+0.25
Bank of Japan	50.00	+0.50
Bank of Korea	45.00	+0.25
Bank of Russia	40.00	+0.50
Bank of South Africa	35.00	+0.25
Bank of Sweden	30.00	+0.50
Bank of Switzerland	25.00	+0.25
Bank of Taiwan	20.00	+0.50
Bank of Thailand	15.00	+0.25
Bank of Vietnam	10.00	+0.50
Bank of Yugoslavia	5.00	+0.25

## CHEMICALS

Company	Share Price	Change
Bank of America	65.00	+0.25
Bank of China	60.00	+0.50
Bank of India	55.00	+0.25
Bank of Japan	50.00	+0.50
Bank of Korea	45.00	+0.25
Bank of Russia	40.00	+0.50
Bank of South Africa	35.00	+0.25
Bank of Sweden	30.00	+0.50
Bank of Switzerland	25.00	+0.25
Bank of Taiwan	20.00	+0.50
Bank of Thailand	15.00	+0.25
Bank of Vietnam	10.00	+0.50
Bank of Yugoslavia	5.00	+0.25

Company	Share Price	Change
Bank of America	65.00	+0.25
Bank of China	60.00	+0.50
Bank of India	55.00	+0.25
Bank of Japan	50.00	+0.50
Bank of Korea	45.00	+0.25
Bank of Russia	40.00	+0.50
Bank of South Africa	35.00	+0.25
Bank of Sweden	30.00	+0.50
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Company	Share Price	Change
Bank of America	65.00	+0.25
Bank of China	60.00	+0.50
Bank of India	55.00	+0.25
Bank of Japan	50.00	+0.50
Bank of Korea	45.00	+0.25
Bank of Russia	40.00	+0.50
Bank of South Africa	35.00	+0.25
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GAVIN DAVIES

"While the Tories are focused exclusively on how to afford tax cuts, they may be headed straight for a massive electoral backlash centred on the state of the public services."

## Fiscal navel-gazing may leave Labour nest-egg

Gordon Brown's central objective as shadow chancellor has been to shed Labour's image as a profligate party with an addiction to borrowing and debt. To his credit, he has prevented the usual build-up of half-baked spending promises from shadow cabinet colleagues, each of which looks good to individual pressure groups, but taken together repel the electorate. This painstaking effort wins no short-term political spurs, but is essential if the electorate is ever again to entrust Labour with the reins of government.

Most economists have concluded there is no difference between the Labour and Tory fiscal objectives. But this is not necessarily true. Because the Conservative plans are so tight over the medium term, Labour might be able to loosen them a little while still having a credible fiscal framework.

Last year's Budget plans aimed to balance the Budget by 1998-99, and to tighten the underlying fiscal stance every year between now and then. Just because the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement has recently been exceeding the target set last year, the public debate (especially on the right of the Tory Party) is missing the fact the Government intends to squeeze public services in real terms by about 1 per cent next year – a phenomenally tight objective. While the Tories are focused exclusively on how to "afford" tax cuts, they may be heading straight for a massive electoral backlash centred on the state of the public services. The Oxfordshire middle class revolt on the state of the schools might be the first of many outbreaks.

If fully implemented – and admittedly that is a big "if" – these public spending objectives would tighten the fiscal stance much more than Labour's framework would require. Here is the arithmetic. Gordon Brown

reiterated yesterday that Labour's budgetary plans would have two separate objectives. First, over the economic cycle, the government would borrow no more than it was investing, so the "golden rule" of public finance would be fully observed. This, however, would place no upper limit on the PSBR per se. A high level of public investment would automatically justify an increased level of borrowing. So in order to overcome this concern, the shadow chancellor has also said he would seek to stabilise the ratio of public debt/GDP at a "prudent and sensible level". This latter objective would place an upper limit on the PSBR, probably at an average of about 2.5 per cent of GDP (£220bn) in the course of the cycle.

By coincidence, this PSBR objective is almost exactly equal to what the Conservatives have achieved in the past decade, a fact that has encouraged the conclusion that the fiscal stance would not change much under Labour. But it is the future that matters. The key question is how the path for the PSBR on unchanged policies might compare with Labour's objectives. Table 1 makes this

comparison. On present economic policies the PSBR would most likely drop from £27bn this year to £18bn in 1996-97, and then down to zero by the end of the century. This path assumes the Government maintains its objective of holding the growth in public spending to 1 per cent per annum in real terms, while the economy as a whole grows at about 2.75 per cent per annum. Although this may look draconian, it would in fact involve a slower reduction in borrowing than was planned by Kenneth Clarke last year. Consequently, if he chooses to stick to last year's targets (which is unlikely), he would need to raise an extra £5bn a year in the November Budget.

Labour, by contrast, would not seem to face the same dilemma. It would aim not for a budget surplus, but for a PSBR of 2.5 per cent of GDP when the economy is next at mid-cycle (i.e. when GDP is at trend). The key question is exactly when this will be. The economy was last at trend in 1990; if we simply extrapolate the GDP trend line from that date onwards at the economy's long-term growth rate of 2.2 per cent per annum, we find that

GDP is unlikely to return to trend until 1998-99 at the earliest. So if Labour aims for a PSBR target of 2.5 per cent of GDP in that year, it could borrow about £16bn more than present plans imply.

This might look too good to be true, and there are several ways in which this margin could shrink. First, an incoming Labour chancellor might decide that an easing in the underlying fiscal stance would be inappropriate for demand-management reasons. Table 2 shows what would happen if the next government left the underlying fiscal stance unchanged up to 1998-99, eliminating the large fiscal tightening planned by the Treasury. The PSBR target would then be £15bn in 1998-99, instead of the £20bn suggested by the golden rule and public debt requirements. This would cut Labour's scope for fiscal action from £16bn to £11bn.

Second, the next chancellor might decide it is imprudent to assume GDP will be at trend only in 1998-99. There is some evidence the trend rate of growth in GDP may not have been as high as the usual 2.2 per cent per annum since 1990, because of a period of low

growth in the labour force and chronic under-investment. Just to be on the safe side, it might be wise to assume that trend GDP will be attained earlier than 1998-99. But for each year we bring the crucial date forward, Labour's scope for fiscal manoeuvre is cut by about £5bn.

Third, the plans bequeathed from the present government would of course be nothing more than figures written on pieces of paper – the intended tough control over public spending is just a promise. If Labour could not deliver the same tight control over the public sector as promised by the Tories (especially on public sector pay), the entire scope for fiscal action could be absorbed by spending overruns.

Finally, of course, Mr Clarke may not be too keen on leaving a nice little nest egg for Mr Brown to spend. He may start to loosen the reins on public spending, or pre-announce a phased programme of tax cuts for the medium term, which would eliminate all of Labour's scope – and indeed leave Labour in serious difficulty with the PSBR if the economy should hit an early recession.

At the moment, though, the Chancellor does not seem to be thinking in these terms. Instead, he seems determined to play the card of fiscal stringency, and is presumably ready to denounce the opposition if it should try to argue borrowing is being reduced too far. That may well be laudable from an economic point of view. But once Mr Clarke has set his budget targets for public spending in 1996-97, it will be difficult under the new control system subsequently to relax them. This looming crisis about the provision of public services should be the real focus of attention, not endless navel-gazing about the prospect of achieving modest tax cuts in November.

Scope for fiscal relaxation

	PSBR on unchanged policy	(£bn) PSBR target Conservative	(£bn) PSBR target Labour	Fiscal room Conservative	Fiscal room Labour
1995/96	26.6	21.5	—	5.1	—
1996/97	17.9	13.0	—	4.9	—
1997/98	10.3	5.0	21.1	5.3	5.8
1998/99	4.7	—	21.0	5.7	16.3
1999/2000	—	—	22.4	—	27.1

PSBR targets in 1994 Budget. Assumes the PSBR should be at 2.5% of GDP when the economy is approximately at mid-cycle.

PSBR projections on 'neutral' fiscal policy

	PSBR on 'neutral' fiscal policy	(£bn) PSBR on present policy	Planned fiscal tightening (cumulative)	Tightening as % of GDP
1995/96	26.6	26.6	—	—
1996/97	21.5	17.9	3.6	0.5
1997/98	19.3	10.3	8.8	1.1
1998/99	15.4	4.7	10.7	1.3
1999/2000	11.3	—	16.0	1.8

\*Neutral policy in the years after 1995/96 is defined to include 2.2% per real growth in the public sector control total in line with trend GDP, and unchanged tax rates. Source: Goldman Sachs

## New chapter opens as Tory values brought to books

The unilateral withdrawal by three top publishers from the Net Book Agreement last week was reminiscent of that peculiar brand of loyalty favoured by the Conservative Party: fidelity to the cause until all hope is lost, then a rapid, efficient betrayal and a new direction.

All three – Penguin, HarperCollins and Random House – were staunch supporters of the near century-old price-fixing scheme, which set a minimum price for new books sold in the UK. It brought order to the market, protected diversity, and cocooned the country's specialist and independent bookshops.

But when the agreement came under heavy fire from retailers demanding price flexibility (and, not inconceivably, from the threat of European Commission intervention), the pressures became too great.

Gail Rebeck, the 43-year-old chairwoman of giant Random House, probably would not care for the Tory link. (Her husband, Philip Gould, is an adviser to Tony Blair and author of the notorious memorandum questioning Labour's fitness to govern.) But she is the very personification of the industry's ambivalence towards the collapse of the NBA: long a supporter, it was partly her precipitous actions last week that helped sound the agreement's death knell.

Ms Rebeck certainly knows the business. With Anthony Cheetham, she created Century, an independent publisher, in 1982, following a career that ranged from small imprints to the paperback operations of Hamlyn.

She became a millionaire when Century was bought by Random House in 1989, and rose to the chairmanship following Mr Cheetham's high-profile departure a year later.

She now runs a business with an annual turnover of £100m. Privately owned by the Newhouse family of the US, the company is "profitable" but reveals no financial figures. When Ms Rebeck took over, the company was losing money – due, she believed, to the huge number of books it published every

The collapse of the price-fixing system is creating a new world in publishing. The chairman of Random House ponders the future

year. Over a three-year period she slashed output from 1,800 titles to about 1,200 annually, allowing the sales force to focus its attention.

"We were able to spend more on everything, and we weren't spreading ourselves too thin," she said in a rare, face-to-face interview with the *Independent* late last week.

Atop the ugly Random House fortress in London's unfashionable Vauxhall Bridge Road, Ms Rebeck's office is oddly comfortable: a deep sofa lines one wall, across from a coffee table groaning with books – Random House books, of course. Perched on one pile is

a copy of Salman Rushdie's *The Moor's Last Sigh*, the bookies' favourite to win this year's prestigious Booker Prize. Next to it lies a copy of *Enigma*, the new thriller by Robert Harris, whom Random House nurtured from

uly of a personal nature. But she is quick to smile, and highly intelligent about the industry she has made her own.

"I am running a business," she says. The old battle between the traditional small publisher

and the giant multinational is chimerical, she maintains. "Authors want the intimacy of a small unit, where everyone knows them. When it comes to sales, they want a machine," she says.

By running Random House's 32 imprints – Jonathan Cape, Chatto & Windus, Century – on an independent basis, and by centralising the sales force, authors get the best of both worlds.

Until very recently, the NBA ensured that the book publishing environment was also quite stable. "A workable NBA worked very well indeed for many years," she says. "But an unworkable NBA, which is the situation we found ourselves in, didn't work at all. The situation had come to a head, and we had to recognise that the market had changed."

The proximate cause of the

agreement's collapse can be found among Britain's book retailers. Allowed to discount titles published by companies outside the NBA – Reed, since 1991, Hodder Headline since late 1994 and even the BBC children's book range, since mid-September – the big retailers found they could attract additional custom by aggressive pricing.

The trend was confirmed by the deep discounting by supermarkets such as Asda and Tesco, which stocked popular books only and sold them at half price. "Many of our customers wanted to start trading on a no-net basis," Ms Rebeck says. "Authors asked us why their titles weren't discounted and others were. We just couldn't sustain this half-way house."

But a unilateral withdrawal was not the preferred route for Random House, she insists. "We would have preferred an industry consensus and an orderly withdrawal towards the end of the year."

So why did she move only two days before a meeting sponsored by the NBA administrator, the Publishers Association, to discuss the agreement's future? "We could see there was no consensus forthcoming," Ms Rebeck says. "A number of

publishers felt there was increasing pressure and that it was inevitable it was going to disintegrate. But they didn't want that, so they weren't going to do anything about it. We felt we had to take decisive action."

Her decision was made easier by WH Smith, the industry's largest customer, which told publishers it was preparing a massive promotional campaign at both Smith and at its high-street chain, Waterstones.

"A number of customers had come to us with what-if scenarios and contingency plans. The difference with the Smith-Waterstone's approach was the immensity of it and the fact they had worked it out in such a lot of detail."

The chief worry of publishers such as Random House is the prospect of a debilitating price war. The supermarkets have already declared they will remain the low-cost sellers of popular books. High street shops are likely to counter with special offers of their own – for example, cut-rate prices for this year's Booker titles, as well as special rates for bulk purchases.

The battle will mean great bargains at Christmas. But Ms Rebeck is concerned about the longer term, particularly the fate of independent bookshops. "We need to ensure quality, diversity

and accessibility," she says. "We must encourage independents to be resourceful, imaginative and entrepreneurial so they can compete with the bigger chains."

Random House is offering a "flexible" package to independents to encourage them to offer deals to their customers. "Flexibility" probably means lower wholesale prices for Random's books, but Ms Rebeck refuses to provide further details. The publisher is also believed to be campaigning for "firm" sales of books, rather than the current system under which retailers can return unsold stock for credit.

She predicts some failures in the independent sector ("regrettable") but believes the future of the book business remains bright. She dismisses the idea that new authors will have difficulty getting published, or that best-sellers will push aside more worthy titles.

Booksops, however, will have to learn to market more effectively, providing more attractive sites, a wider range of services (coffee shops, CD-Roms for children to play), and personalised services. "It is a steep learning curve," she concedes. "But I am convinced that price alone is not going to sell books."

Matthew Horsman

### THE MONDAY INTERVIEW

#### GAIL REBECK



Gail Rebeck: A workable Net Book Agreement worked well, but an unworkable NBA did not work at all

## Wall Street cashes in on merger mania

Bear Stearns's chairman, Allen Greenberg, last week gave a little reminder of the misery that was Wall Street just a few months ago. In the financial year that ended 30 June, the firm suffered a 38 per cent fall in its net income, and whereas Mr Greenberg's bonus a year before was a handsome \$10.9m (£6.8m), this time it slumped to \$5.6m. Still a lot of money, but a big cut none the less.

So the shadow of 1994, when virtually everyone was laying off workers by the thousands and bond trading suffered its worst spell in 70 years, still lingers a little. But almost every other item of news coming from the Street these days tells us that the sunlight has started to return. Even Salomon, beset both by losses and an exodus of its top performers, might just have managed a profit in the quarter just ended. (They will tell us in the third week of the month.) Then we will know for sure that the wheel has turned.

And why shouldn't things be better? While rising interest rates spooked the party in 1994, this year the rates scenario –

basically stable but on a downward trend – has been near perfect. Over-the-counter securities trading is booming, while investors continue to pour their money into US mutual funds at a record pace. And that's before considering the avalanche of merger and acquisition activity, led by the takeover bids for Capital Cities-ABC by Walt Disney, for CBS by Westinghouse and, most recently, for Turner Broadcasting by Time Warner. Merger mania in the media industry is almost being matched by the banking sector, with fusions by the handful, including that between Chase Manhattan and Chemical Bank.

Indeed, according to a study published on Friday by *Merger Review*, a publication of the Los Angeles investment bank Houlahan Lokey Howard & Zukin, 1995 is set to become America's biggest takeover year in history. The third quarter alone produced deals worth a record \$125.2bn, up 55 per cent over the same quarter in 1994. So far this year the number of deals valued at \$1bn or more is up 65 per cent, while the

number of smaller combinations has also risen sharply. Wall Street is enjoying the ride. Notable beneficiaries include CS First Boston, Goldman Sachs and, above all, Morgan Stanley, which acted as adviser both in the Chemical-Chase deal and in Time Warner's \$7.5bn embrace of Turner.

### VIEW FROM NEW YORK

Last Wednesday, Morgan Stanley revealed that its second-quarter earnings leaped 73 per cent over the same period last year. Investment banking revenue was up 68 per cent and trading revenue up 17 per cent. Not surprisingly, the stock value has soared 58 per cent since the beginning of this year.

Lehman Brothers too has been attracting attention. Its revenues have been rising gradually while its stock value, like Morgan Stanley's, has taken off. Some of the market interest reflects speculation that Lehman may be ripe for takeover, per-

haps by a foreign institution anxious to get a decent foothold in America. Thought to be near the front of the queue of potential buyers are Union Bank of Switzerland, Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank.

In addition to the improved conditions, many firms are benefiting from their efforts last year to cut costs, including the multiple redundancies. "The lay-offs have worked and are beginning to show through in the financials," says Michael Lipper, of Lipper Analytical in New York. He confirms that Wall Street is thriving again but voices caution. "I would say it is a good time, but not yet a boom time. There is still some pricing pressure and some excess capacity." So far there has been no sign of significant rehiring of any of the thousands who got their pink slips last winter.

And while little change seems likely on rates in the near future, the months ahead may hold some other uncertainties. Mr Lipper is concerned, for example, that the onset of the presidential campaign may bring some of the trading volumes

down as investors and corporations consider what kind of policy changes various candidates might bring. "It is possible that as we begin to see the candidates we may become like deer in the headlights. It is a wonderful excuse to do nothing," he says.

Finally, there are others, aside from the investment bankers, who are making money in the merger binge. As the gossip from the Time Warner courtship of Turner surfaces, we learn, for example, that one other than Michael Milken, the ex-convict who, in theory, is banned from any securities-related businesses, is reportedly being paid a \$50m fee by his friend Ted Turner for advice rendered. Theo there is the package that has been promised to Mr Turner himself, who, if the deal goes through, will become a vice president of Time Warner. His pay packet, according to the *New York Times*, has been set at over \$110m for the first five years – or somewhere around \$42 a minute. Eat your heart out, Mr Greenberg.

David Usborne

# Manweb

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## Manweb's response to ScottishPower's final offer

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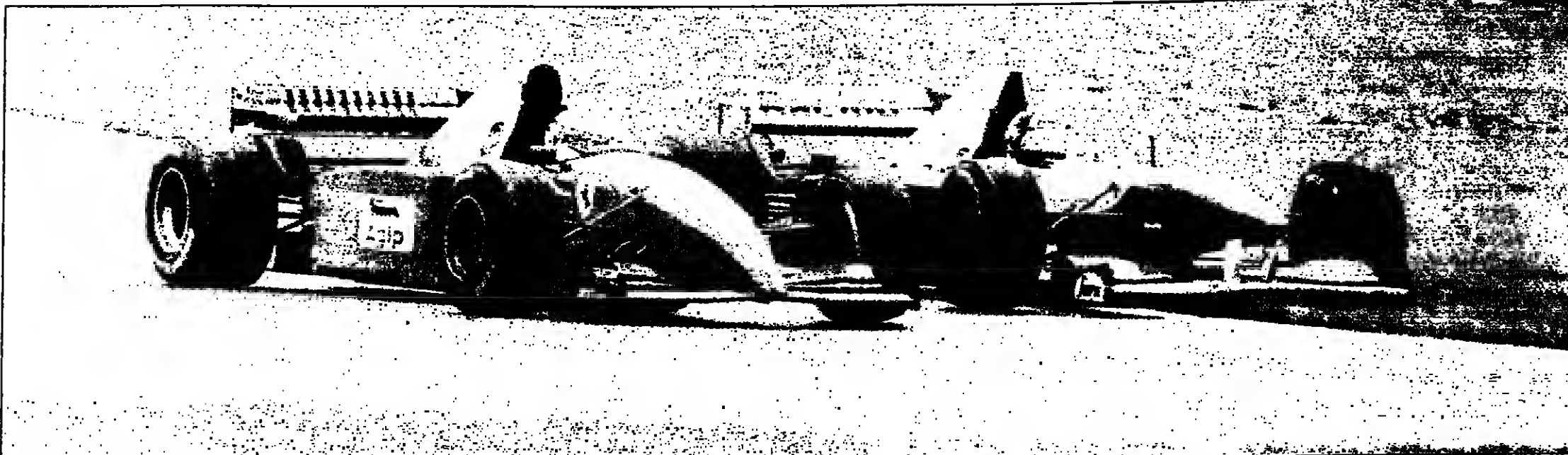
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## MOTOR RACING: Hill concedes that the championship is over but looks forward to next season's challenge



Damon Hill runs out of room as he tries to find an inside line past the Ferrari of Jean Alesi before crashing out of the European Grand Prix yesterday

Photograph: Pascal Rondeau/Allsport

## Ecstatic Schumacher extends his lead

## Motor racing

DEREK ALLSOP  
reports from the Nürburgring, Germany

Today the Ringmeister, some day later this month, master of Formula One again. Michael Schumacher produced one of his most majestic performances to seal Damon Hill's world championship fate for a second consecutive season.

Hill left his car and hopes crumpled in a heap of tyres, strolled to the edge of the track and acclaimed the winner of a scintillating Grand Prix of Europe, and conceded the title. As Schumacher, savouring his slowing-down lap, came into view the Englishman applauded and gave him the thumbs-up.

Schumacher leads by 27 points with only three races remaining. Fourth place in the Pacific Grand Prix, in three weeks' time, would be enough to confirm his triumph. Hill, pushing in an honourable but forlorn bid to stay in the contest, lost control of his Williams-Renault

eight laps from the end of the race. Little more than two laps from the flag, Schumacher manoeuvred his Benetton-Renault past Jean Alesi's Ferrari and went on to claim his second victory of the year on home ground.

Hill said: "I am not going to be world champion, but I will be happy. I did everything I could. I don't feel I've disgraced myself. I put up a good fight and it did not come out. The championship is over, really, but I live to fight another day."

"Michael drove a great race and won again in his home country. Hats off to the guy. He's a bloody good driver. I've no complaints this time."

Schumacher said: "Damon's gesture showed what I have said many times. The situation is difficult and we are not really friends, but we respect each other, and it is out a war. He accepted I won the race and almost the championship. I wanted to stop to pick him up but I couldn't, and it was too cold. I would have given him flu."

Hill, who required nothing less than a win to resuscitate his

championship challenge, found himself locked in a familiar rough and tumble with Schumacher and an equally aggressive confrontation with Alesi.

He survived a particularly harrowing moment with Schumacher but was not so fortunate as he attempted to overtake Alesi. The French-Sicilian declined to give way and had his front wing chopped off.

Repairs carried out, he was reduced to a damage limitation exercise and pushed too hard in

pursuit of his team-mate, David Coulthard, in third place. "I got wide, on to the slippery bit, and that was it," he said.

"I had to try and win. Second was no good to me. I left no margin for error with Alesi. I had to get past because I was losing time to Michael. It was a classic example of his knowledge. I was there and, if he'd given me room, I would have got through. But let's not get embroiled in that argument again. I'm happy with myself."

Schumacher was ecstatic. He made three pit stops to Hill's two and Alesi's one, and again the strategy, like the driving, was impeccable. Alesi gambled on slick tyres for the start, superbly coaxing his machine along a still damp track, although unable in the early stages to threaten Coulthard, Schumacher and Hill.

Coulthard, named as a McLaren-Mercedes driver for 1996 five hours before the race, tripped up again driving round

the grid and had to switch to the spare car. Even so, he led until taking his turn in the queue to abandon wet tyres.

Alesi took advantage, opening a gap of 40 seconds at the head of the field. Hill, meanwhile, hounded Schumacher, taking and then losing third place in a furious scrap. On the following lap they touched as Schumacher once more resisted.

Schumacher made a critically earlier stop than Hill, who lost valuable time endeavouring in vain to out-wit Alesi and they collided. Alesi said: "Maybe Damon had too much confidence, because it was not possible to overtake at this point."

Alesi, hampered by back markers and wayward at the

chicane, rapidly loomed in Schumacher's sights and although the pair locked wheels as the German attacked, neither man came to grief. Alesi grudgingly accepted second, and Coulthard was third.

Schumacher said: "It has to be one of my greatest races. I thought I used up my luck at Hockenheim but obviously not. In my wildest dreams I couldn't have expected to be 27 points ahead."

Rubens Barrichello (Jordan-Peugeot) was fourth. Johnny Herbert (Benetton-Renault) fifth and Eddie Irvine (Jordan-Peugeot) sixth. A Pacific-Ford mechanic knocked over in a pit lane accident, was taken to hospital with two broken legs.

## EUROPEAN GP

1. M. Schumacher (Ger) Benetton-Renault 107 laps 1:58.04.44sec; 2. J. Alesi (Fra) Ferrari, +2.88sec; 3. D. Coulthard (GB) McLaren-Mercedes, +3.36sec; 4. R. Barrichello (Bra) Jordan-Peugeot, +3.55sec; 5. J. Herbert (GB) Benetton-Renault, +4.1sec; 6. E. Irvine (GB) Jordan-Peugeot, +4.1sec; 7. M. Salvo (Ita) Ligier, +4.1sec; 8. M. Magnussen (Den) McLaren-Mercedes, +4.1sec; 9. P. Dumas (Fra) Ligier, +4.1sec; 10. J. Agazzi (Ita) Ligier, +4.1sec; 11. J. Agazzi (Ita) Ligier, +4.1sec; 12. J. Agazzi (Ita) Ligier, +4.1sec; 13. J. Agazzi (Ita) Ligier, +4.1sec; 14. J. Agazzi (Ita) Ligier, +4.1sec; 15. J. Agazzi (Ita) Ligier, +4.1sec; 16. J. Agazzi (Ita) Ligier, +4.1sec; 17. J. Agazzi (Ita) Ligier, +4.1sec; 18. J. Agazzi (Ita) Ligier, +4.1sec; 19. J. Agazzi (Ita) Ligier, +4.1sec; 20. J. Agazzi (Ita) Ligier, +4.1sec; 21. J. Agazzi (Ita) Ligier, +4.1sec; 22. J. Agazzi (Ita) Ligier, +4.1sec; 23. J. Agazzi (Ita) Ligier, +4.1sec; 24. J. Agazzi (Ita) Ligier, +4.1sec; 25. J. 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# PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE: Longchamp witnesses history as a horse with a lion's heart is crowned the new king of racing

## Lammtarra joins the greats

### English Rose maintains the Abbaye habit

RICHARD EDMONDSON  
reports from Longchamp

WHEN they talk about the great horses, Lammtarra will now have to be included. Ribot, Mill Reef and Nijinsky can expect a new companion in the pantheon following yesterday's historic Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

It will be something of a family reunion as Lammtarra, the most inexperienced horse ever to win an Arc, triumphed in Paris 25 years to the day after his father, Nijinsky, surrendered an unbeaten record. As the chestnut colt completed the mighty trinity of the Derby, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes and there was the reminder of another, more poignant, anniversary. It was 17 months ago that Lammtarra's first trainer, was shot dead in Newmarket.

Lammtarra's life, in a competitive sense anyway, may also be sadly short-lived. He is now on course for the Breeders' Cup Turf, which will be the fifth, and almost certainly last, assignment of his twinkling career. On the road to the pantheon he will reside, pleasurable, and pass on his seed of greatness, in either Newmarket or Kentucky.

Lammtarra's snapshot and brilliant career was not even a dream in the spring. As he wintered in Dubai with his Godolphin workmates the sustenance brought to him was not hay and oats but rather grapes and fruit as he recovered from a life-threatening respiratory illness. "He was almost dead," Sheikh Mohammed, the head of Godolphin, said yesterday. "He must be one of the greats to come through that sickness and do this."

This core of steel is what Lammtarra will be remembered for. There have been faster horses, more flamboyant

horses and horses with greater charisma, but for competitive strength at the highest level he has no peer.

Godolphin knew this and Lammtarra's greatest asset was never going to be underplayed yesterday. Laffanico Dettori pushed his mount into a challenging position from the outset, just in behind the pace-making Luso. The latter's partner, Cash Asmussen, apologised for not carrying the field along for longer as Lammtarra swept to the head of affairs over half a mile out.

In the straight, Lammtarra was under the whip but this was a manoeuvre of encouragement rather than desperation. The hawks launched from behind, but only Freedom Cry got in the leader's brush rather than discouraged Lammtarra. By the time Dettori raised himself in celebration out of the saddle he had three-quarters of a length to spare.

Of the other British runners Balanchine finished 10th on almost certainly her last appearance. Luso 13th and Strategic Choice 14th. Last year's winner, Carnegie was sixth.

Walter Swinburn, who lost the ride on Lammtarra after winning the Derby, said Balanchine was never travelling well but saluted his former partner. "I was always fighting a losing battle on Balanchine," he said. "All my emotions about Lammtarra went away back in July. Now I am thrilled for the horse."

"I had reservations about the ground, but he has come into this race with a better preparation than he had for the Derby and King George."

This was posted as a British win, the first in the Arc since Carroll House in 1989, but the detail did not bear scrutiny. Lammtarra, an American-bred horse, is owned by a Dubaiian, trained by a Dubaiian (Saeed Bin Suroor) and ridden by an



Laffanico Dettori puts his head to 'the lion's' mouth to celebrate their Arc triumph

Italian. The reception for his victory was not typically British as Dettori took his place to a crowd in full Continental roar.

The noisy peak came when the jockey executed his now familiar circus exit from the saddle. It was hardly typically Dubaiian, either, as Sheikh Mohammed embraced Dettori in an uncommon display of pleasure.

"I am stuck for words for the first time in my life," the jockey said before dismounting his initial statement. "This horse is a lion. He is so tough and hard and he does not want to lose. He has been a little bit immature but now he stays, he gallops, and he fights."

Simon Crisford, the Godolphin racing manager, added: "He has to be some horse. He

had to show great courage to overcome his illness and to undergo such a hasty preparation for the Derby. He was more immature then, like a little schoolboy, but now he is the ultimate racing machine."

The machine, sadly, will be switched on just one more time, it appears. Belmont Park in a month's time is likely to be the last time the newest recruit to

history's very top team parades his talents.

**PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE**  
1. LAMMTARRA (GB) (Dettori) 12.0  
2. FREEDOM CRY (GB) (P. Begg) 13.0  
3. LUSO (FR) (Asmussen) 14.0  
4. BALANCHINE (FR) (Dettori) 15.0  
5. STRATEGIC CHOICE (FR) (Dettori) 16.0  
6. CARNEGIE (FR) (Dettori) 17.0  
7. LUSO (FR) (Asmussen) 18.0  
8. LUSO (FR) (Asmussen) 19.0  
9. LUSO (FR) (Asmussen) 20.0  
10. BALANCHINE (FR) (Dettori) 21.0  
11. LUSO (FR) (Asmussen) 22.0  
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## sport

# Braveheart surrenders to new Ali

## Boxing

JAMES REED  
reports from Cardiff

Naseem Hamed has an evil heart in the ring. He is possibly the most ruthless boxer in the world and on Saturday night he left Steve Robinson bleeding, bewildered and in tears after eight rounds to win the World Boxing Organisation featherweight title.

As Hamed moved his feet into position to land the last punch, he was still talking, still taunting Robinson. "Who is stronger now, Steve? Who is the stronger now?" Hamed was laughing and it was all part of his cruel plan. The final left hook slipped behind Robinson's guard and landed on the side of the Welshman's jaw. At first he just rocked, then his legs defied his brave heart and he was down.

Hamed stood and watched. He winked at his manager, Brendan Ingle, as referee Ismael Fernandez jumped between the fallen boxer and the new champion. Robinson regained his feet but it was over and his silted attempt at walking back to his drained manager, Dai Gardiner, emphasised the suffering he had endured from the opening bell.

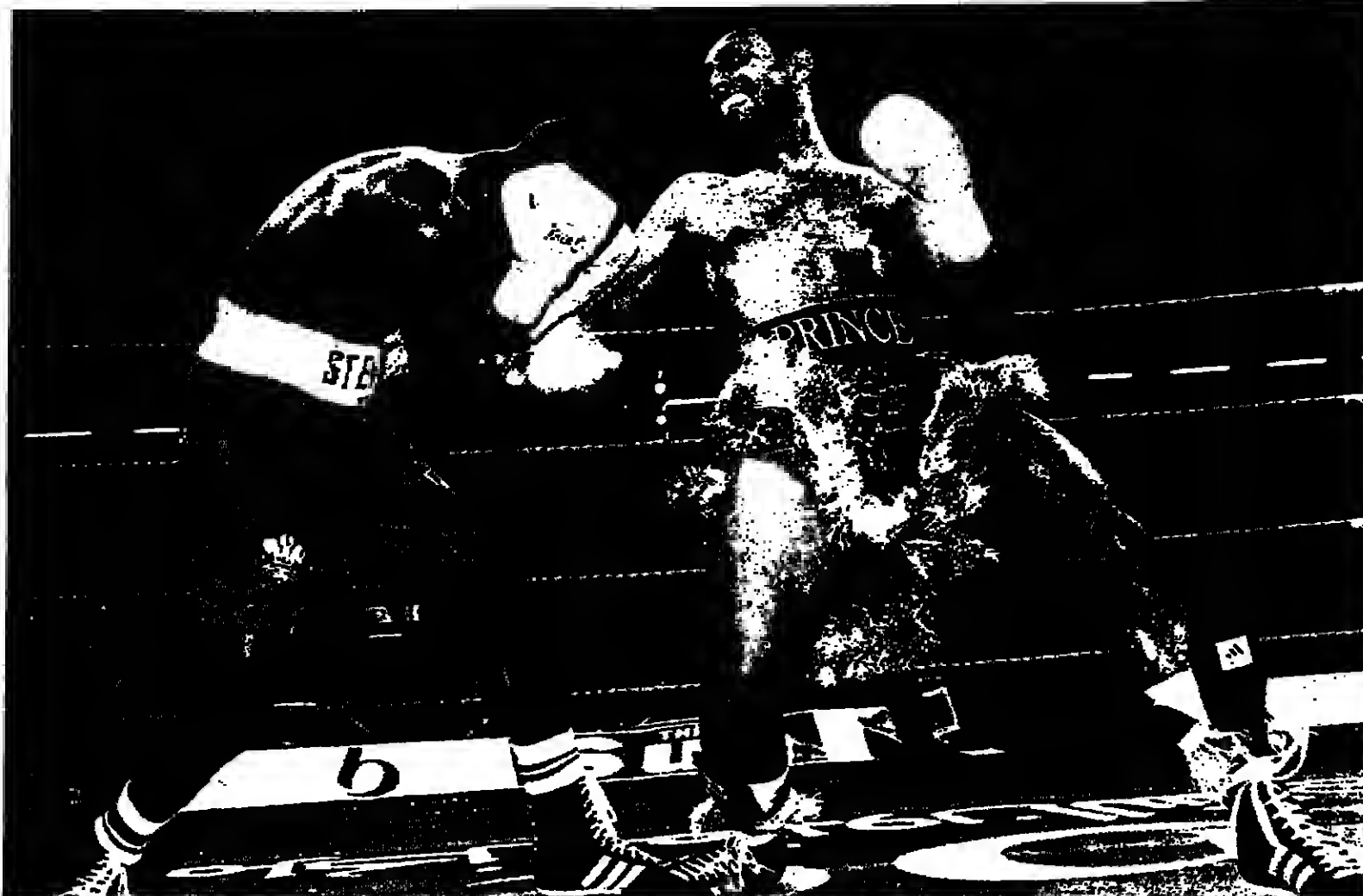
At times it was a terrifying spectacle to watch and as the pair embraced Robinson ducked his head, the tears mix-

ing with the blood on his battered face. In the centre of the ring, Hamed just raised his hands and howled. The 16,000 sodden fans who watched the display of brilliance at the Cardiff Rugby Club started to file away before the belt was placed around Hamed's waist.

Robinson joined the silent hordes and traipsed in despair back to the sanctuary of his changing room and the foolish words of his misguided friends and family, who insisted the fight was fixed. "The ref is bent," one shouted from the VIP seats. Others blamed the promoter, Frank Warren, for a variety of perceived slights. Their outrageous complaints were in stark contrast to the courage of the man they came to support.

However, as the idiotic cacophony raged, Robinson even suggested, somewhat bizarrely, that if he met Hamed again, the fight would end differently.

"Yeah, I would knock him out in one round," said Hamed, and claimed he was not given enough time to prepare. It was an undignified and unnecessary conclusion to his defiant stand. From the first bell, Hamed took control. Robinson could not get close and his familiar lunges took on a desperate quality. Hamed leered as he weaved from side to side. Robinson did connect cleanly with occasional left hooks and one particular right. The crowd loved it and ignored the drizzle.



The punishment pit: Naseem Hamed takes pleasure from inflicting more pain upon Steve Robinson

Photograph: Sean Dempsey/AP

From the start, Hamed switched to orthodox to further complicate his intricate punch patterns. After three minutes the pair stood eye-to-eye. "He must be joking," Hamed said as he sat in his corner for the first time. "It was like watching Muhammad Ali, the confidence, the speed and the moves. He is incredible, and he is British." Warren just, Hamed watches Ali tapes, not just the famous encounters against Joe Frazier and George Foreman, but the real fights, the early fights when

Ali's speed was beautiful to watch, his words poetry and his Muslim conversion led to him becoming the most hated black man in America. Sheffield-born Hamed, whose parents were from the Yemen, knows what it is like to be an outsider.

In round five, as the steam rose from the backs of both boxers, Robinson was sent down for the first time in the fight and just the second time in his career. Robinson survived the round and the next two but by the start of round eight his bravery

should have been rewarded by an act of mercy from his trainer, Ronnie Kusi, and Gardiner, who performed their corner rituals with all the enthusiasm of two relatives at a wake. Robinson should have been spared here, led off to contemplate his future but instead he limped out for round eight with a sad sigh and the blood from his nose momentarily stemmed. Hamed was still smiling.

After one minute 40 seconds of round eight, it was over and Hamed was the new

champion. A defence is planned for November or December, possibly in his home town, Sheffield, where there is a large Pakistani community. A fight in the Middle East is still a possibility as Hamed is watched by as many as 150 million on the Arab satellite channel MBC.

After Saturday's display there appear to be few obstructions to Hamed's inevitable ascent. The only danger is the boy himself and he needs to be protected from his own genius and the prowlers whose emergence

during the last 18 months have caused some concern. The fighting is the easy part.

Roy Jones Jr wants to fight Nigel Benn, the World Boxing Council champion, after comfortably retaining his International Boxing Federation super-middleweight title in Pensacola, Florida. Jones, who stopped fellow American Tony Thornton in the third round, said: "I'll fight Benn for \$10m, which is not even close to the \$50m Don King was shooting his big mouth about a while back."

## Ngugi is found wanting for pace

Athletics  
MIKE ROWBOTTOM

John Ngugi, competing for the first time since his four-year doping ban, finished 26th in yesterday's Great Caledonian 10km Run at Edinburgh in a time only 16 seconds faster than that of the women's winner, Liz McColgan. As comebacks go, it was hardly one to rank with Eric Cantona's.

But the 33-year-old Kenyan, who won the Olympic 5,000 metres gold medal in 1988, was returning to competition sooner than he would have wished. He had planned to start racing in December, before seeking a record sixth world cross-country title next year, but was persuaded otherwise by his agent, John Biscourt.

"I need another four weeks before I'll be racing properly," said Ngugi, who is due to run in another Bupa-sponsored event next Sunday, the Great South Race over 10 miles.

On a day of fierce winds, Ngugi recorded 32min 11sec, far ahead of him Gary Staines held off fellow Briton Andrew Pearson to win in 28:44.

McColgan, who won the Great North Run two weeks ago, finished in 32:27. "It was hard going," she said. "I enjoyed running with the men and everything seems to be on course." McColgan plans to run the Tokyo Marathon next month.

Paula Radcliffe was beaten by 0.6sec in Saturday's Fifth Avenue Mile in New York as Ireland's Sinead Delahunty won in 4min 25.2sec.

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## Hill's gilt-edged sprint adds to Australia's gold haul

## Cycling

Australia's Darryn Hill won his first major title when he took the men's sprint gold, the blue ribbon event of the World Cycling Championships in Bogota.

In Saturday's three-heat final, Hill beat Canada's Curt Harnett, who on Thursday had become the first man to break the 10-second barrier in the event. Earlier, he had beaten his com-

patriot and the former world champion, Gary Neiland.

Hill, runner-up to Marty Nothstein of the United States in last year's World Championship, celebrated while Harnett was left waiting for his breakthrough despite Thursday's record. Harnett, who clocked 9.865sec when he set the record during Thursday's qualifying time trial, won the first heat of the final comfortably.

In the second, the Canadian was within a whisker of the world title but was edged by Hill on the final straight. In the decisive heat, Hill outmanoeuvred the Canadian and sped away to claim the crown. "I got him up on the hip and kept him there," Hill said. "I think I'm becoming a smarter rider. I hope so."

Hill, who rode after Harnett on Thursday, had also gone under 10 seconds, with a time of 9.926. Hill claimed Australia's third medal of the track event,

which finished on Saturday. On Tuesday Shane Kelly won the 1km time trial, breaking the world record in the process, while on Friday the Australians won the men's team pursuit.

Rebecca Twigg, of the United States, reclaimed the world record she lost just one day earlier and won the women's individual pursuit, despite riding with a broken collar bone. Twigg, 32, beat Italy's Antonella Bellutti in 3min 36.08sec.

James Zanel, the 51-year-old Croydon cyclist, celebrated his second consecutive win in the 1995 Great Spartanathlon on Saturday in a new personal best of 25hr 50min 42sec. The testing ultra-distance race, the 145-km course from Athens to Sparta, crosses the mountain ranges and has a 36-hour time limit.

SWIMMING (Athens to Sparta, 145 miles): J. Zanel (GB) 25hr 50min 42sec; 2. V. Halkias (GR) 27hr 49min; 3. S. Smith (GB) 28hr 12min.

FIFTH AVENUE MILE ROAD RACE (New York): 1. M. Vukobratovic (SRB) 3min 42.2sec; 2. B. Harnett (CAN) 3min 42.2sec; 3. B. Harnett (CAN) 3min 42.2sec; 4. B. Harnett (CAN) 3min 42.2sec; 5. B. Harnett (CAN) 3min 42.2sec.

AMERICAN LEAGUE (Friday): Seattle 4, Texas 3, New York Yankees 3, Toronto 3, Chicago White Sox 4, Minnesota 3, Cleveland 3, Kansas City 2, St. Louis 3, Oakland 3, Detroit 3, Boston 3, Tampa Bay 3, Florida 3, Pittsburgh 3, Cincinnati 3, Philadelphia 3, Washington 3, Baltimore 3, New York Mets 3, Los Angeles Dodgers 3, San Francisco Giants 3, Houston Astros 3, San Diego Padres 3, Colorado Rockies 3, Arizona Diamondbacks 3, Montreal Expos 3, St. Petersburg 3, Tampa Bay 3, Florida 3, Pittsburgh 3, Cincinnati 3, Philadelphia 3, Washington 3, Baltimore 3, New York Mets 3, Los Angeles Dodgers 3, San Francisco Giants 3, Houston Astros 3, San Diego Padres 3, Colorado Rockies 3, Montreal Expos 3, St. Petersburg 3, Tampa Bay 3, Florida 3, Pittsburgh 3, Cincinnati 3, Philadelphia 3, Washington 3, Baltimore 3, New York Mets 3, Los Angeles Dodgers 3, San Francisco Giants 3, Houston Astros 3, San Diego Padres 3, Colorado Rockies 3, Montreal Expos 3, St. Petersburg 3, Tampa Bay 3, Florida 3, 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# Richards sets a poor example



Last time it was stamping; this time Richards was done for punching after the referee had lectured all 16 forwards who had just been engaged in an all-in punch-up, a touch judge suggesting to Campsall that Richards had been the instigator.

**Gloucester:** Try Halford; Penalties Number 3.  
**Leicester:** Tries Back, Halford; Conversion Lloy; Penalties Lloy 5.  
**Gloucester:** T Smith; P Halford, O Casida, M Roberts, L Osborne, M Rumbey, B Fanley; A Powles, J Hawley, A Deason, O Sims (capt), R West, P Glanville, C Raymond, I Smith.  
**Leicester:** J Lloy; S Hadeney, S Potter, R Robinson, W Halford, N Malone, J Hamlett; G Rowntree, R Cockrill, I Genforth, M Johnson, M Poole, J Wells, D Richards (capt), N Back (O) Wingham, 38-10.  
**Referee:** B Compall (Halford).

Photograph: Peter Jay

The circus had begun more than three hours before kick-off as the press rat-pack – hardened from years of doorstepping Michael Barrymore and David Mellor – assembled in the car park to pounce on Carling's Range Rover.

The car-park steward, in a Harlequins cap, chuckled at the subterfuge. "The press was well gutted. That was a great dummy, that was." The pack then swarmed around the players' entrance to the pitch like so many angry hornets. Police formed a ring in front of the press before Carling - his face a mask of impassivity - jogged out to warm up.

For the rest of the game, Carling played with the same rejuvenated verve he has shown all season — making outside breaks

rugby, admitted with a grin that "there were certain things that we were trying to remind Carling of during the game. You can't let things like that go by."

**Hartlepool:** J. Sapsis; O O'Leary, W Carling, W Greenwood, S Bromley, O Peers, R Kishin (capt); S Brown, S Mitchell, A Mullins, A Snow, P Thresher, M Russell, C Sheesby, R Jenkins.

**West Hartlepool:** 7 Stimpson; O Evans, J Williams, C Lee, A Parker, P Hodder, S Cook, P Lancaster (capt), 7 Herbert, M Shelley, C Murphy, K Westgarth, O Mitchell, R Wainwright, A Brown.

**Redfern:** F Morrison (British).

**Courage Clubs'**

Olney	4	2	1	1	69	52	8
Cowdrey	4	2	0	2	68	62	4

**RUGBY UNION**

**South**  
Canberra 11 Barking 31

The fanatical supporters have grown used to success and they greeted all eight of Bath's tries exuberantly. Jon Callard scored two of them, joining the line at pace each time, and his six conversions and solitary penalty - Bath were awarded just two in the match, one of which they ran - underlined his all-round abilities and value.

but success will satisfy them.  
 Baths: Triles Adeabo 2, Calant 2, Gurozo, Uugbo, De Glawille, Cato; Conversations Calant 6; Penality Calant. Orells Triles Scott, Johnson; Conversations Matzon 2; Penality Matzon 2.  
 Sister: J. Gillard; A. Luchstein, P de Glawille, J. Gurozo, J. Adeabo, A. Adeabo, M. Cato, A. Nibot, K. Yand, G. Gurozo, Uugbo, M. Hase, N. Radmen, A. Robinson, S. Ojimoto, B. Claude.  
 Orells: S. Scott; J. Niyak; A. Healy, P. Johnson (Capt. O Smith); P. Harner, A. Wiering, P. Winstant, M. Scott; J. Curdick, C. Hudson (P 2-14, Para. 51), M. Glynn, J. Huxley, F. Manley, S. Bibby.  
 Regiments: A. Rowden (Thatcham).

So two weeks after having his nose broken in Cardiff's victory at Neath, Hall is nursing an even more serious damage, suffered in his club's fourth straight win in their defence of the Heineken League title.

Tony Cospey was sent off for flooring Hall in an angry 72nd-minute brawl. The irony was that the trouble erupted because of a set-to between Hall and Jeanan

A proportion of the blame for the match failing to live up to its billing was laid squarely at the door of the appointment of an inexperienced, and clearly nervous, referee for what was always going to be a rugged affair.

Gareth Jenkins, the Llanelli coach, said Mr White had got "really involved with his whistle, and nothing could develop at all. When you get a game blown up as quickly as that it is very disappointing. We spent six hours

when it mattered was Hiemi Taylor, the Cardiff captain, who surged away from the back of a scrum to create the prime position from which Cardiff scored the only try of the match.

**Llanelli:** Penalltaes McCarthy 4. **Cardiff:** Try Humphreys; Penalltaes A Davies 3; Conversion A Davies.

**Swansea:** Penalltaes I Evans, N Bootleyer, N Davies, W Proctor; M McCarthy; R Moon (H Harries, 26th R Moore, A Lumenton, S Johns, P Davies, 28th R Moore, C Quennell U Johnson, 29th D Lloyd, P Morris).

**Cardiff:** S Davies 3; S Ford, M Hall, M Rang, S Hall; A Davies, A Moore; A Lowes, J Humphreys, L Mouston, R Stewart; D Jones, N Bennett; R Griffiths.

**References:** C White (Cheltenham).

gave a stunning performance that belied her 32 years when she dropped Megumi Yabushita, a Japanese champion, on to her back for ippon (10 points) in the first round. But for a split decision against her in the second round Rendle might have made it to the final. Instead she

While Britain should be disappointed with only one bronze, the Japanese are not happy with three golds — one less than their tally at the last championships in Hamilton, Canada two years ago.

Wentworth	2	0	1	3	38	92	4
<b>National League Three</b>							
Plymouth	18	0	1	1	1	1	1
Worcester	23	0	1	1	1	1	1
Reading	13	0	1	1	1	1	1
Reading Park	12	0	1	1	1	1	1
Worcestershire	6	0	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Divisional</b>							
Worcestershire	4	0	1	1	1	1	1
Worcestershire	4	0	1	1	1	1	1

Winningham Sol.	3	2	0	1	72	56	4
Chetfield	3	2	0	1	43	38	4
Kendal	3	2	0	1	82	58	4
Winningham Pk.	3	2	0	1	80	54	2
Sanday	3	1	0	2	60	54	2
Fresno G.	3	1	0	1	37	44	2
Lichfield	3	1	0	2	53	75	2
Stoke	2	0	0	2	22	43	0
Wroughton Pk.	3	0	0	3	28	51	0
Wroughton	3	0	0	3	54	119	6

Hemelken Welsh League			
First Division			
Bridgend	56	Abertillery	3
Cardiff	12	Cardiff	16
North	42	Nowbridge	12
Pontypridd	38	Nowport	3
Swansea	68	Aberpenn	5
Treorchy	20	Ebbw Vale	29

Herres 19. Fourth Division: Carmarthen Herqueurs 23 Whitland 3; Porthpool Ud 11. Rummy 31; Rhymerney 10 Llansyston 5; St Peter's 24 Abercrombie Herqueurs 5; Tumble 19 Merthyr 11; Mareno 14 Glynneath 6. Fifth Division: Abercromby 31; Tonnes 9; Sanddaff 7 Kidwell 17; Herndy 26 Abercrom 20; Porthcenn 18 Old Dale 6; Swan Saters 43 Cardiff Herqueurs 11; Wefed Rhonda 19 Fefelod 6.

Camaghy Stn.....	28	Nianticook.....	17
Gordonians.....	18	Wigtownshire.....	18
Haddington.....	12	Langholm.....	20

**Insurance Corporation**  
**Irish League**  
**First Division**

Ballymena.....	8	Instonians.....	20
Garryowen.....	23	Blackrock Coll.....	22

**CLIPPED:** Dublin of City of Water 22; Portlaoise visitors: Ballina 10 Collections 16; Armagh 6 And 8; Carrigans 14 CYMS 3; Sigo 9 Queens University Belfast 3; Dublin University 91 University College Galway 12.

Japanese champion, on to her back for ippon (10 points) in the first round. But for a split decision against her in the second round Rendle might have made it to the final. Instead, she

the Japanese are not happy with three golds – one less than their tally at the last championships in Hamilton, Canada two years ago.

**Results, Sporting Digest, page 24**











THE PRODIGAL RETURNS: The Frenchman has the first and final words but in between two-goal Fowler grabs the limelight

# Cantona refuses to be upstaged

GLENN MOORE

Manchester United  
Liverpool

Evans disappointed  
as points are shared

In the end it was neither fish nor foul - nor sardine, nor seagull, as the man himself might have put it. Eric Cantona made a goal and scored a goal but his welcome home party ended in anti-climax.

Though the points were shared, Liverpool were the moral victors, while Newcastle will have been as pleased as anybody. They are now four points clear at the top of the Premiership, Manchester United remain third and Liverpool are fourth. September is barely out and already the contenders are massing.

There will be battles royal ahead but, yesterday, the attention was on a republican. There were enough tricolours about to celebrate Bastille Day and, 68 seconds into the match, they were being waved like batons as Cantona's third touch helped put United ahead.

However, the returning Frenchman was all but upstaged by a precocious scouser. Robbie Fowler scored twice as Liverpool outplayed their hosts and hushed the maddening crowd. Then some sloppy work in midfield allowed United back in and the gatecrashers had to settle for a share of the spoils.

They felt they should have had more. An unusually angry Roy Evans strongly criticised David Elleray, the referee, who had been quoted before the game saying the spotlight was on him as well as Cantona. Elleray gave United a penalty for pushing in the area - which Cantona scored - but denied Liverpool a similar claim.

"It is a sad story when the referee thinks he has equal billing with Eric Cantona," Evans said. "I thought Cantona passed the test but the referee did not. We deserved more than we got. We lost two points

on a dodgy decision." Television pictures suggested Elleray was half-right, both should have been penalties. For the first, after 26 minutes, Steve Bruce appeared to be holding Fowler as he hurt past him. For the second, after 70, Jamie Redknapp appeared to push Ryan Giggs before toe-ending the ball away from him.

The controversy detracted from an absorbing and thrilling game which started with high drama. The halloons and ticker-tape which greeted Cantona's arrival were still blowing across the pitch when United took the lead.

Inevitably it was Cantona who was at the core. Despite all the attention he found space on the left and Andy Cole found him. His cross reached Nicky Butt who went past Phil Babb with his first touch and scored with his second.

For a few minutes Liverpool looked lost. A hamstring injury to Mark Wright meant John Seales had been pitched in for his first game of the season while Jason McAleer was making his full League debut for the club. However, slowly their passing began to gel and United were forced so far back that Ryan Giggs became an auxiliary left-back.

The equaliser should have come after 22 minutes but Ian Rush, who had a quiet game, just failed to reach a clever chip by Fowler. Four minutes later came the penalty appeal.

Fowler, though, was not to be denied and six minutes later he again came in from the left and drilled a ball inside. Peter Schmeichel's near post as the goalkeeper anticipated a cross.

Schmeichel's anguish was shared by Lee Sharpe. Less than a minute earlier a sweeping move involving Cantona had given him a clear chance,

but it fell to his wrong foot and he shot tamely at David James.

At half-time Alex Ferguson, the United manager, gambled. Butt, suffering from a groin strain, came off. David Beckham came on and the team reverted to a three-man central defence, aping Liverpool. The only other time it was tried this season, at Aston Villa on the opening day, it was abandoned after shipping three goals in 37 minutes. Eight minutes later it looked as if a repeat performance was looming. Gary Neville was caught on his own and brushed aside by Fowler who delicately chipped Schmeichel to put Liverpool ahead. United pushed up but Liverpool remained in control.

Then calamity befell Michael Thomas. Having come in for John Barnes - missing for domestic reasons - he had provided the midfield with bite and Fowler with the pass for his second goal. But now he dithered in possession, was tackled by Philip Neville and the ball broke to Cantona. He fed Giggs who tumbled under Redknapp's challenge. Cantona coolly dispatched the penalty.

Though Cole, with an acrobatic overhead kick, and Redknapp, with a free-kick, went close Cantona had had the final say. This time everyone knew what he meant. He was back.

Manchester United (4-3-3): Schmeichel; P. Neville (Schweke, 72), Bruce, Paterson; G. Neville, Butt (Stevenson, 14), Keane, Sharpe; Cantona, Cole, Giggs. Substitutes not used: P. Taylor, Liverpool (2-5-2): James; Seales, Ruddock, Babb, McAleer, McLennan, Thomas, Redknapp, Hirst, Fyfe, Fowler. Substitutes not used: Warner (44), Kennedy, Callaghan. Referee: D. Elleray (Harrow).

The knee injury that caused Manchester United's Denis Irwin to miss yesterday's match has forced his withdrawal from the Republic of Ireland squad for next week's game against Latvia. More football, pages 26 and 27



Pole position: Eric Cantona climbs the goal support after scoring on his return yesterday - Photograph: Peter Jay

Le rouge  
rogue  
reclaims  
his crown

Ian Ridley hails  
the imperious gall  
of United's Gallic  
footballing genius

Here's the plot. We'll have him laying on a goal after 67 seconds, then rallying his team after they've been outplayed and equalising with a penalty before scoring the winning goal in the last minute. No you're right. We'll save the last-minute winner for another episode. Don't want to give them too much too soon.

Thus did the actor out on loan, as one of his heroes, Jim Morrison, once sang, return to centre stage after eight months of suspense and suspension. Curiously he seems, during that time, to have become an even better player, such is the stoking of the legend, but this was good enough. All the touches and flicks were there, if a little rusty. The eye for an opening remains that of a footballing eagle.

"He has done well," said the Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson. "He was tired at the end of it but he can be well pleased with his performance and his stamina. It's a credit to his preparation and how he looks after himself."

Most were drained at the end of an emotionally exhausting day. It began hours before the kick-off, with Sir Matt Busby Way throbbing with buyers and sellers of inventive merchandise: red and white confetti, French tricolours. His autobiography was going for only £5 but this had less to do with lack of popularity or the end of the Net Book Agreement, more that everyone had it already.

On that famous forecourt, underneath the Munich memorial, some wore onions round their necks, beads on their heads. Here could be found his father, Albert, signing autographs, after a demanding two-day drive from Marseille, necessitated by his fear of flying.

Inside it was a love-in attended by 34,934, some of whom were not journalists. Sadly few from Liverpool had obtained tickets. They played the music from the *Magnificent Seven* for him, "Welcome Home" and "I Want You Back" by, appropriately, Take That. He entered, last in line and tracked by his own TV camera, to the theme from Rocky and joined the other players in holding aloft a banner saying: "Let's kick racism out of football. Respect all fans." All except Matthew Simmons, Old Trafford was thinking.

Soon there was the cross for the goal but United then stood back in satisfaction for an hour, his cushioned passes and positional astuteness not used well enough, until the penalty, stroked home with the customary aplomb. Any worries about him taking it? "Who was going to get it off of him?" said Ferguson.

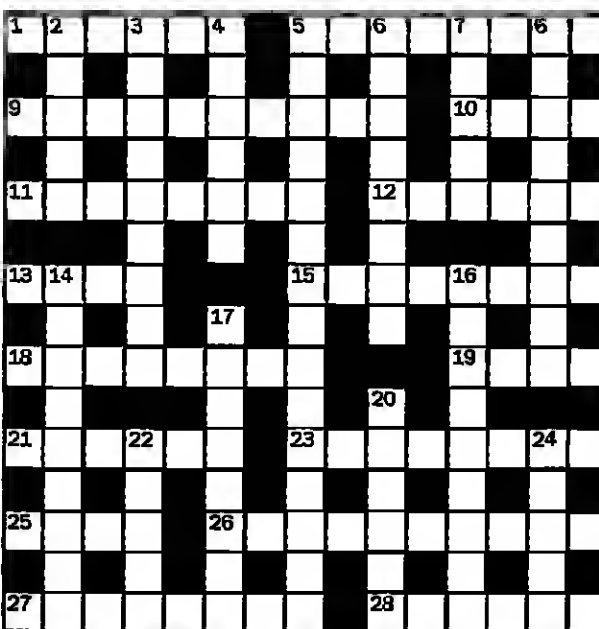
There was never any danger of trouble involving him, with his characteristic best-behaviour tackling prevailing; it was the tamest North-west derby he could remember, said Ferguson. Even with Neil Ruddock in opposition, though one tangle had him throwing his arms up at him mockingly, even with a player on the field - in footballing terms the game's star - called Fowler, he was always in control. Chelsea in three weeks' time could be the first real test.

Before then, United have three goals to try and relieve at York tomorrow night. Will he be risked? "I'm saying to myself... I wonder," said Ferguson. He may be pondering the words of a T-shirt on sale: "Rage is temporary, class is permanent."

## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 2794, Monday 2 October

By Mase



### ACROSS

- 1 Organ's reprinted protests... (6)
- 5 ...typical of eccentric (8)
- 9 "My Time in Grave" is weird (10)
- 10 Very little charge (4)
- 11 Silver he found in strike, leaving mining refuse (4,4)
- 12 French article, say, damaged on edge (6)
- 13 Gear one secured for reversing (4)
- 15 Finished, look - with commercial handicap (8)
- 18 We're told to observe rough for marine creature (8)

- 19 City racket, hoodlum's first (4)
- 21 Hidden talent brought into play (6)
- 23 A viewer's complaint? (8)
- 25 Plant pots (4)
- 26 One involved in many a draw? (10)
- 27 Take back dog right away (8)
- 28 Is first in Marlborough after school break (6)

### DOWN

- 2 Like princes of Troy, almost (5)
- 3 Car diagram and signature (9)
- 4 Cycles, discovering spots around Rhode Island (6)

- 5 Watch faces light up with this! (15)
- 6 Cuts some capers in theatrical garb? (8)
- 7 Here's one in the soup! (5)
- 8 Another reading of one's hand, perhaps (9)
- 14 Effective worker (8)
- 16 Bar thinned in network (9)
- 17 A patronised female? (8)
- 20 Suppresses hooch makers (6)
- 22 Compete for record (5)
- 24 Seamen making voyage, reportedly (5)

## League players can return

Rugby Union

STEVE BALE

One hundred years and one month after rugby league made its own break for freedom, rugby union's International Board yesterday made the historic announcement of an immediate free gateway for rugby league players, hitherto barred as professionals and pariahs, to enter or re-enter union.

The return of players of the outstanding quality of the Welsh stand-off Jonathan Davies is now dependent only on the contractual arrangements they have in league. Note Davies' nationality: the IB, meeting in Tokyo to ratify the demise of amateurism agreed in Paris in August, gave individual unions the let-out of regulating the gateway as they each saw fit.

And already the Rugby

Football Union has made clear its desire to enforce a stand-down period for would-be converts in England - even though its own president admits such a restriction would contravene the law relating to restraint of trade.

The Welsh, by contrast, know when they are on to a good thing and when Vernon Pugh, chairman of the IRB amateurism committee and the Welsh Rugby Union, arrived at Heathrow airport last night he had no doubt his union would welcome any and all of its northern exiles.

"We haven't discussed it but I would be surprised if we decided on any restriction," he said. Pugh is the driving force behind the abandonment of years of amateurism and the embracing of professionalism under the catch-all description of "open" rugby. Once the decision to permit payment for playing had been taken in

principle, the century-old ban on rugby league professionals was no longer tenable.

So is the English position and, hizzarely, the RFU appears to know it. "We would still favour a period of stand-down or re-qualification," Bill Bishop, the union's president, said yesterday. England's delegates in Tokyo had pushed for a six-month stand-down.

"We have varying points of view and Rugby Union officials in Cumbria, Yorkshire and Lancashire feel very strongly about the effects of player-loss to RL. We will be discussing the matter at our executive committee next week aware that, if we imposed a period of suspension and it were tested in the courts, we would lose."

"But we do have a four-month qualification spell for players moving from one club to another and a six-month spell for

players coming from abroad. It would be illogical to sideline a player moving from Orrell to Bath for four months but allow a player moving from Wigan RL to Bath instant access."

Quite so. Doubtless Tony Hallett, the secretary, will explain the RFU's curious reasoning when he conducts a press briefing at Twickenham today. Anyway, he too has already admitted that even the 120-day qualification imposed on transferred players would not stand up legally.

Otherwise the board concerned itself with the regulation of professional rugby, in particular asserting the primacy of national unions over clubs or other bodies in contracts, sponsorship, advertising and broadcasting rights. Players' contracts with clubs, for instance, will need the approval of their national union.

Richards' poor example, Carling's sidestep, page 25

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